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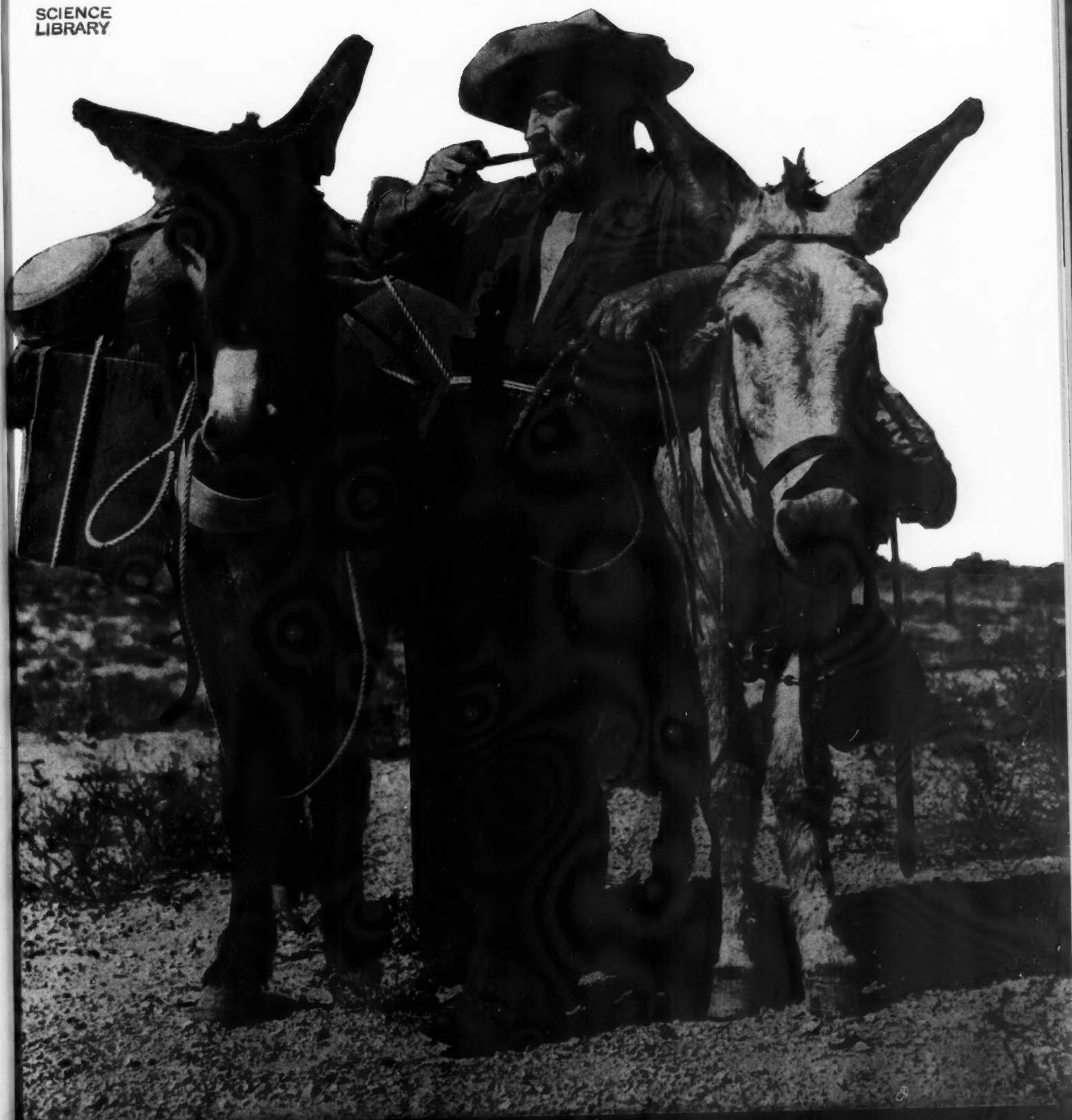
THE

Desert

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DESERT CALENDAR

September 27-29—Quay County Fair, Tucumcari, New Mexico.

September 28-30—County Fair, Spanish Fiesta and San Geronimo celebration, Taos, New Mexico.

September 28-October 1—Osteopathic Convention, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

September 29-October 7—New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

September 30—Julian's Apple Day, Gold Rush Days relived, Julian, California.

October 1-7—Golden Aspen Week Carson National Forest—Aspen-cades, planned by Forest Office and Taos Chamber of Commerce. October 3, Solemn Vespers and Candlelight procession.

October 4—Fiesta of San Francisco Ranchos de Taos.

October 1-31—Paintings of California Indian Costumes at Southwest Museum. Artist, Charles Packard. Highland Park, Los Angeles.

October 6-7—Cochise County Fair, Rodeo and Horse Show, Douglas, Arizona.

October 7—Colorado River Marathon, Needles, California.

October 9-13—Eastern New Mexico State Fair and Rodeo, Roswell, New Mexico.

October 14—Annual Klobase barbecue. Deming, New Mexico.

October 14-27—Annual Convention of California State Hotel Association, Desert Inn, Palm Springs, California.

October 15—Opening of Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, Arizona.

October 17-21—Pima County Fair, adjoining Rodeo Grounds, Tucson, Arizona.

October 17-20—Grand Chapter O.E.S. convention, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

October 18-20—Arizona Aviation Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

October 18-20—Convention of National Association of Secretaries, Phoenix, Arizona.

October 19-21—14th Annual Pioneer Days, Twentynine Palms, California. Parades, bands, gymkhana, fashion show, bowling tournament.

October 21—Mesilla Valley Pecan Festival, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.
October 23-28—Gobarino Harvest Festival, Oildale, Mojave Desert. Gay nineties theme.

October 26-28—Tombstone Helldorado, Tombstone, Arizona.

October 29-31—Western Regional Conference of AAA Motor Club, Phoenix, Arizona.



Volume 14

OCTOBER, 1951

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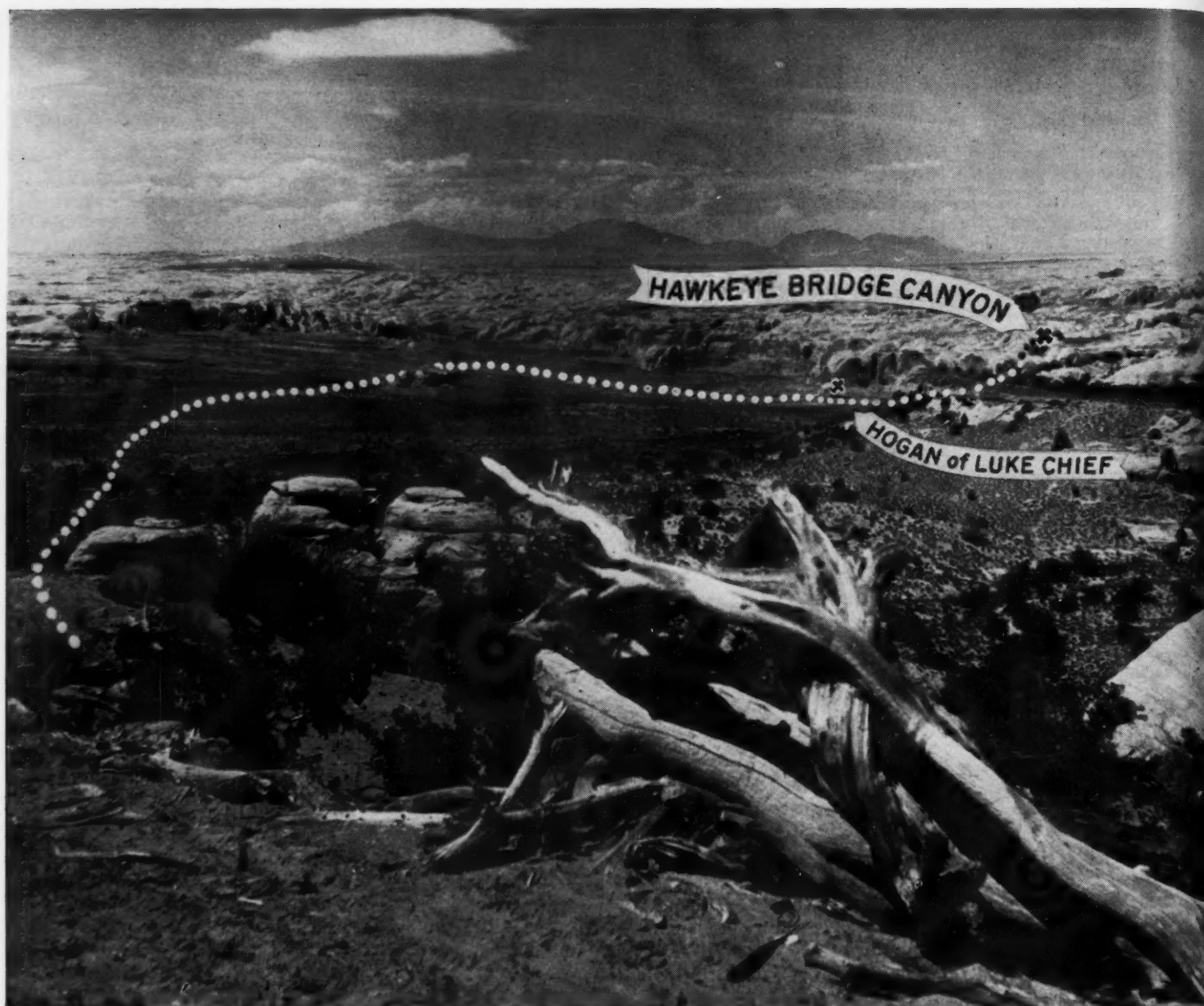
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Dotted line shows the best route from the parking place on the rim of the mesa to Hawkeye Natural Bridge. The walking distance is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Trail to Hawkeye Natural Bridge . . .

By BARRY GOLDWATER

• Photographs by the author •

Map by Norton Allen

ONE EVENING at Rainbow Lodge, Bill Wilson and I were studying the Baker topographic map of the Navajo Mountain region in northern Arizona. Tucked away in one corner of the map, between the mountain and the San Juan River, we found the words "Hawkeye Natural Bridge."

Bill said he had never heard of the

place. Neither had his wife, Katherine. Since Bill has been guiding exploring parties over that region for nearly 25 years, and he and Katherine know all the Indians in that part of the reservation, it seemed strange that they should have missed a natural bridge imposing enough to have been given a name on the map.

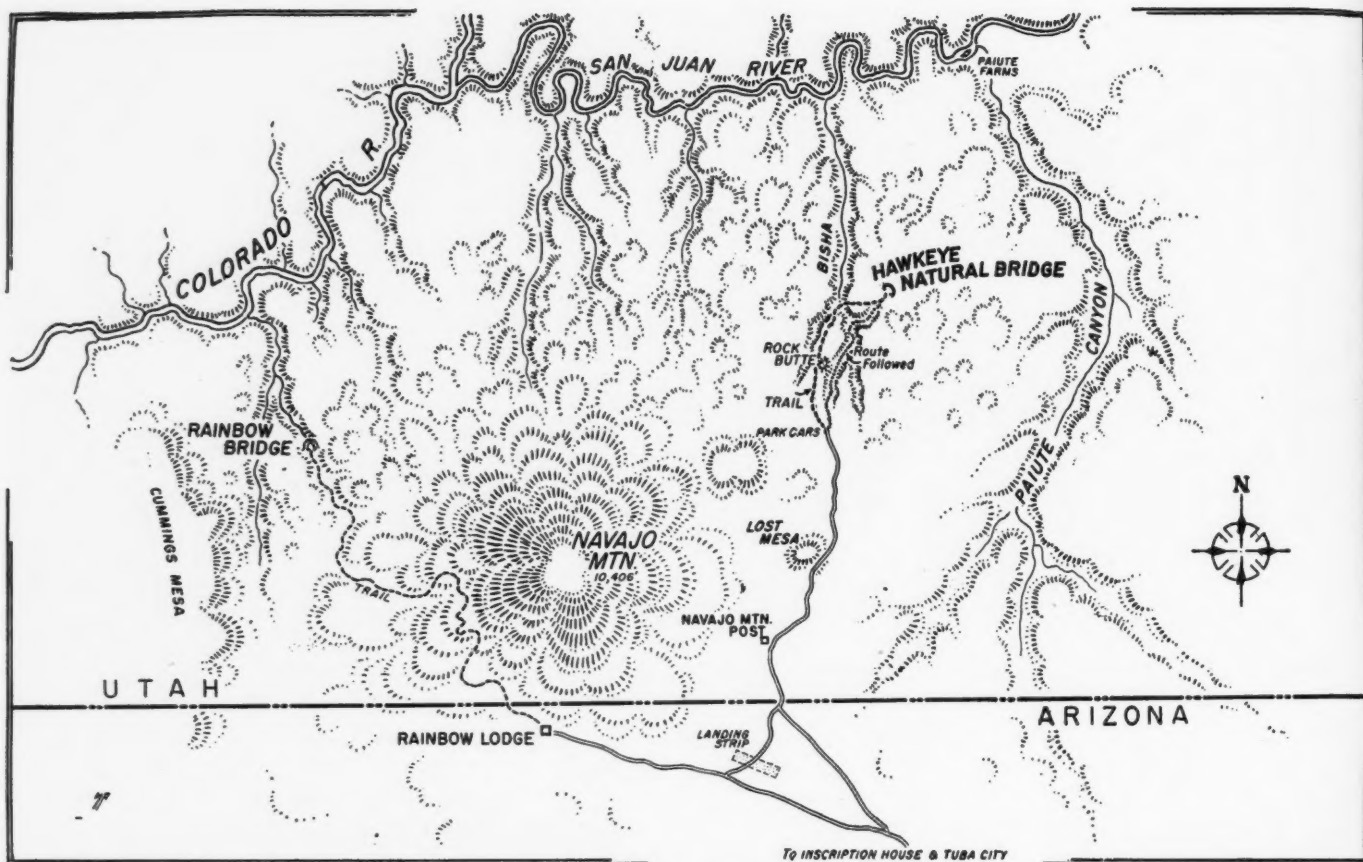
Hidden away in a remote canyon near the base of Navajo Mountain in northern Arizona is a great natural arch of sandstone that until recent years was known only to the Navajo Indians. Barry Goldwater spotted the stone arch from the air—but his effort to reach it by foot-trail was quite fruitless—until a Navajo showed the way.

My airplane was at a landing strip down the road a few miles, and since I had promised to take members of the One Salt family on a flight the next morning, I decided I would try to locate this bridge of mystery from the air.

On the flight the following day it did not take long to find the bridge, and



Hawkeye Natural Bridge, a sandstone arch approximately 200 feet high and 250 feet wide. Apparently the arch resulted from the erosion of the top of what was once a huge cave.



Members of the party missed the trail and reached the natural bridge by following the floor of Bisha canyon.



from the air it appeared to be extremely large, perhaps as big as Rainbow.

Air search for ruins and caves has long been a favorite pastime of mine and a technique has been developed whereby the best routes to the discovery are easily determined. The airplane is flown in a direct line between the area in question and a conspicuous landmark that is known to be visible from the ground. The compass readings are noted carefully and checked by several flights. Then a careful search is made for trails, wagon roads or the best canyons for ground approach. In this instance the road from Navajo Mountain Trading Post around Lost Mesa to the edge of the San Juan Canyon appeared to be the best route.

Quite certain that I could reach the bridge by the route I had noted, I returned to the landing strip and a few hours later left the lodge in a pickup to get pictures of the bridge from the ground. My companions were Sonny Neal 16, Mickey Doyle 11, my youngest son Mike 11, and a Navajo boy, Wilson One Salt 8.

We stopped at Kerley's Navajo Mountain Trading Post to inquire as to the best road around Lost Mesa. The Indians have made many wagon trails in this area, and it would be easy to take the wrong road.

Approximately 6½ miles from the



Luke Chief, the Navajo Indian who guided the Goldwater party to the bridge, located in an unnamed tributary to Bisha Canyon.



Navajo, sacred mountain of the Indians, in the background. The natural bridge is located in the canyon in the foreground.

trading post our road ended abruptly on the edge of the mesa. There is a little sand along the way but none that soft tires will not negotiate.

We found several trails leading off in the general direction of the bridge—and we took the wrong one. We should have kept to the left of a conspicuous butte some distance ahead—but we did not find that out until some time later.

Instead of keeping on top of the mesa, we dropped down into Bisha canyon on our right, and spent the entire afternoon in a fruitless search for our objective. Toward evening we came to a spring of cool water and bedded down for the night on the sand in an old Indian hogan.

Next morning we took up the search again and must have walked several miles in heavy sand before we came to an Indian camp where a sing had been in progress the previous night. Several Indians were loitering around

one of the hogans, and with Wilson One Salt as interpreter I approached them and asked if they knew the location of the natural bridge.

One of the Navajos, Luke Chief, said he knew the bridge well, and started off at a great pace to lead the way to it.

At first sight of the great bridge of stone all the weariness of our long hike was forgotten. Hawkeye is a magnificent arch—not so imposing as Rainbow, but worthy of more attention than it has received. Undoubtedly this formation was at one time a great sandstone cave, but erosion has eaten away the top of it to the extent that a definite arch does now exist.

I would rank it in importance with White Mesa Arch. It is a landmark that should be seen by those who are interested in searching out the unusual landmarks of the Southwest. It has amazing symmetry, and the soft texture of the stone enhances the

beauty of its structure.

It is not an easy bridge to photograph—it hugs too closely to the rock massive from which it was carved to make a spectacular picture. One has to see the bridge itself to appreciate fully the magnificent job of sculpturing Nature has done here.

Our return trip was by the more direct route shown on the accompanying photograph—and this is the route I would recommend for those who plan to visit this little known natural monument.

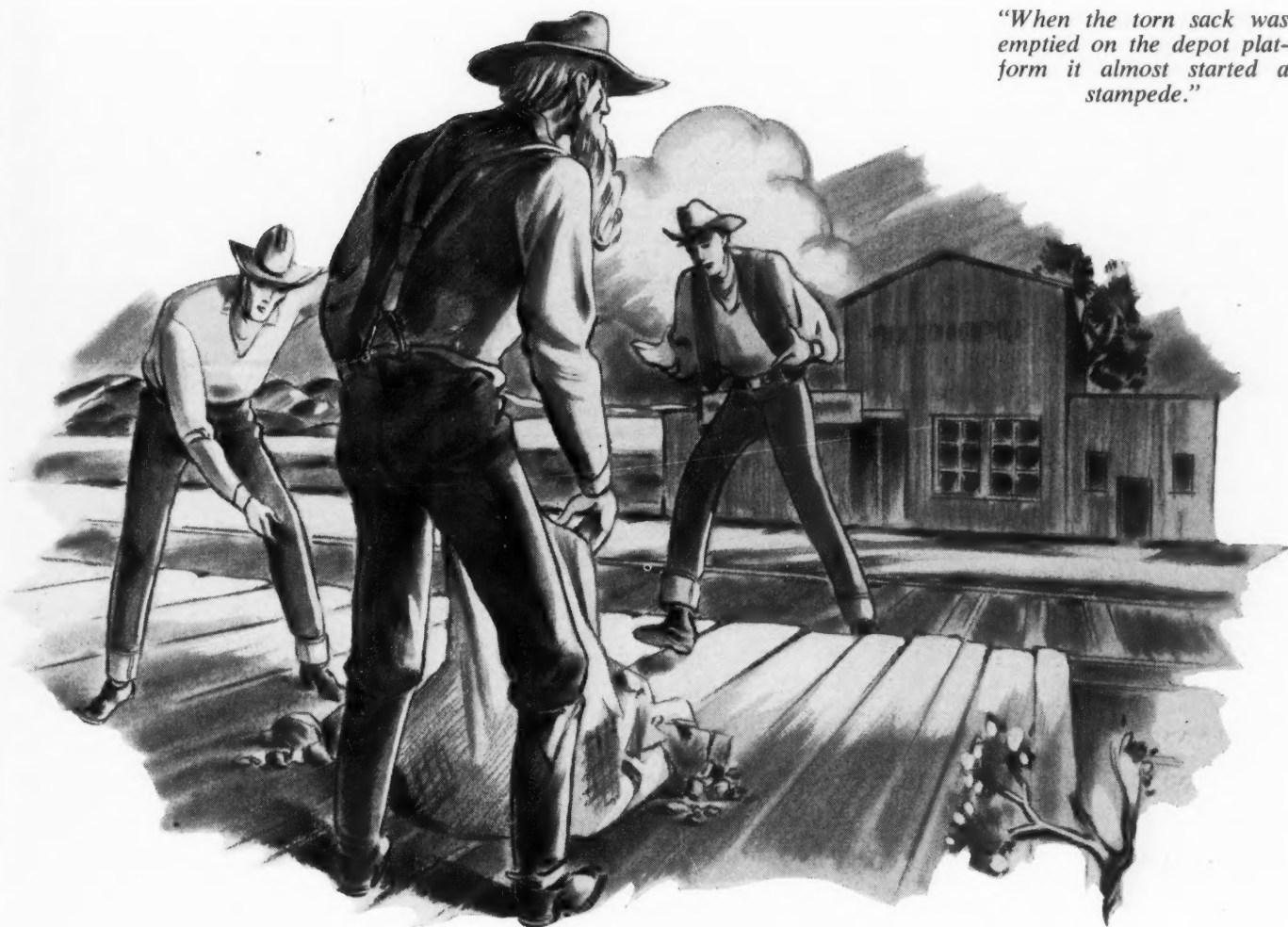
This entire region is a fascinating land for the explorer. Tremendous caves are to be seen east of the bridge, and no doubt in some of these will be found the ruins of prehistoric Indian dwellings. I am going back there at first opportunity—but next time I will follow the Navajo trails instead of floundering around in the sand and among the rocks at the bottom of Bisha canyon.

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"When the torn sack was emptied on the depot platform it almost started a stampede."



Lost Ledge of the Sheep Hole Mountains

Nearly every important mountain range in the Southwest country has its legend of lost gold, and the Sheep Hole Mountains east of Twentynine Palms in San Bernardino County, California, are no exception. As the result of a recent act of Congress reducing the boundaries on the Joshua Tree National Monument, this area is again open hunting ground for prospectors—and may one of them find Hermit John's lost ledge.

By JOHN D. MITCHELL

Illustration by John Hansen

MOST LOST mine stories leave the reader with the impression that the richest mines were found and lost in wild Indian country by old prospectors with long whiskers. The wilder the Indians and the longer the prospector's or Desert Rat's whiskers, the richer the mines seem to be. Western lore is replete with lost mine and buried treasure

stories, some of which, no doubt, have grown in magnitude as time elapsed. Most traditions become distorted in time. The Lost Ledge in the Sheep Hole Mountains seems to be an exception to the rule. The old prospector had plenty of whiskers, but there were no wild Indians.

Early one summer morning about 50 years ago old Pete Ring, John

Lock, storekeeper; Jim Walsh, section foreman; Bill Pine, Santa Fe station agent; and the writer were standing on the depot platform at Amboy, California. A group of strange objects were seen bobbing up and down on top of the heat waves that hung over the dry lake northeast of the station. The lake bed had filled with clear water and the dancing heat waves had lifted everything high into the warm air above the ground. Even old Pete Ring's mine that stood on a small brown hill near the eastern edge of the lake seemed to be high up in the clouds with fairy palaces all around it. As we stood looking at the strange objects dancing around in the shimmering mirage, Pete Ring remarked, "Hell, that's Hermit John and his outfit." By the time the Hermit had

reached the western edge of the mirage his outfit was down on the ground again and he was heading for the Santa Fe depot.

While the Hermit was very secretive about his business, he was by no means a total stranger to the few residents of the little desert railroad station. This was the third time he had shown up at the store and railroad station. Despite the fact that the tall white whiskered man rode a large mule, his feet almost dragged the desert sands. The heat waves had made him look much taller as he rode across the dry lake bed. After unloading six sacks of ore on the depot platform Bill Pine, the station agent, told him that one of the sacks was badly torn and that he could not receive it for shipment in that condition. The old man returned to his pack outfit and brought another sack. When the torn sack was emptied out on the depot platform it almost started a stampede. The ore was a light gray iron-stained quartz literally plastered and matted together with bright yellow gold. Everyone crowded around to see the ore. Pete Ring exclaimed, "Jumping John D. Rockefeller, that's the richest ore that ever came out of the California desert."

The old man gathered the ore up quickly, putting it in the new sack, weighed it and had the agent bill it to a San Francisco smelter. Some very rich gold ore was being hauled into Amboy at that time from a gold mine at Virginia Dale, operated by some Armenians from Los Angeles, but it was an entirely different kind of ore. While it showed considerable free gold, it was nothing to be compared with that brought in by the Hermit.

After watering his five burros and saddle mule at the tank car on the Santa Fe tracks, the old prospector went into camp just behind the little grocery store and near the railroad tracks. We all naturally wanted to know where the ore came from, but the old man was secretive and did not volunteer the information. In those days it was not considered good etiquette to inquire too closely into a stranger's personal affairs—especially if he happened to have a large six shooter handy.

The Armenian freighter told us the old prospector had been seen around their camp on several occasions and that they understood he was prospecting somewhere in that part of the desert. Later that evening the writer visited the old fellow around his campfire and found him reading the Psalms of David aloud from a large leather-covered bible which he carried in his outfit.

He was worried because the other Desert Rats had seen his rich ore. He

was afraid they would try to follow him to his mine.

He told me that while prospecting in the Sheep Hole Mountains north-east of Dale dry lake and southwest of Cadiz dry lake, he had found an old Spanish or Mexican mine that showed evidence of having been worked hundreds of years before. An old arrastra nearby showed that the ore had been treated on the ground. However, there was no water other than a caved shaft near the arrastra that might have been a well. Two or three old graves nearby indicated that the former operators, or at least, some of them, had been killed or died there. Old-time mining tools were scattered around.

During our conversation it developed that we had something in common. We were both from Kentucky. We proceeded to celebrate the occasion with a small nip or two from a bottle of Snake Medicine I happened to have in my hip pocket. After some talk the old man told me that he had done considerable prospecting around the desert, but that old Spanish shaft was the only deposit he had ever found that amounted to anything. The ore, he said was enormously rich and there was enough in sight to make him wealthy beyond his fondest dreams. His description of the place would locate it either in the northeast corner of the Joshua Tree National Monument, or just across the line to the west. This area recently has been deleted from the Monument boundaries.

During our conversation the prospector told me he had done some prospecting around a large outcropping of iron ore to the north of his mine, but that it was too lowgrade in gold to pay expenses of transportation and treatment.

Early the following morning when the Santa Fe passenger train pulled into the station the old fellow was observed to drop a letter in the slot in the mail car. The next morning, after watering his saddle mule and five burros he packed up, filled his numerous water kegs and followed one of the Armenian freight wagons out of town. No one ever saw or heard of him again. The letter probably instructed the smelter to mail the returns to some other post-office or to family or friends in the east. He was never seen around Virginia Dale or any of the other railroad stations along the Santa Fe.

This happened many years ago, and as far as the writer knows no one has ever found, or even looked for the Lost Ledge of the Sheep Hole Mountains. The Hermit probably met the fate that has befallen many others on the desert wastes of the Great Southwest and his bones lie covered with drifting sands. If the original operators were killed by bandits or Indians they probably left some treasure buried in or around the small rock house, the ruins of which still stand there.

Indians Walked on Their Toes . . .

Anthropologists of the University of New Mexico excavating a cave east of Capitan on the Fort Stanton military reservation, report the finding of 300 pairs of prehistoric Indian sandals so constructed as to cover only the toe and the ball of the foot. The conclusion: that the Indians walked on their toes. Some of the artifacts were sent to Yale for radioactive tests which will establish the period when they were in use.

Excavations have yielded 300 pairs of these sandals. Others of similar design have been found in other ruins, but never in such large numbers.

Annual Desert Index to be in December Issue . . .

The first issue of *Desert Magazine* was published in November, 1937. At the end of the first year—in the issue of October, 1938—the first annual index was published. Since then each October issue of *Desert* has carried an index of the year's editorial content. In other words, *Desert Magazine's* year ran from November to October.

Librarians have told us on more than one occasion that the indexing and cataloging of our publication would be much simpler for them if our publication year was the same as the calendar year—and our annual index appeared in the December instead of the October issue.

And so, this year we are going to make the change-over. There will be 14 issues in this Volume 14—and the Volume 14 index will appear in the December number. Volume 15 will start with the January, 1952, issue. This will in no way affect subscription accounts.

Subscribers who keep their magazines in binders will find it possible to insert the two additional copies in their Volume 14 covers—and two extra binder wires will be forwarded without cost to any subscriber or newsstand buyer who makes the request.

The new binders for Volume 15, and thereafter, will carry both the volume number and the year—VOLUME 15—1952.

DESERT STAFF



The geodes of the Beatty area are fantastically varied as to shape. These are typical specimens, although much larger ones can be found.

Geodes in Lizard Gulch

Beatty, Nevada, is very small in population, but very large in hospitality—and one of the reasons for its reputation as a friendly community is Brownie—whose real name is W. H. Brown. He runs the general store in Beatty—that is, he works in the store when he is not engaged in the various goodwill enterprises which occupy much of his time. One of his good turns—several months ago—was to show a couple of Chicago rock-hounds where they could find some choice geodes. And this story is the outcome of the good deed.

By HAROLD O. WEIGHT
Photographs by the author
Map by Norton Allen

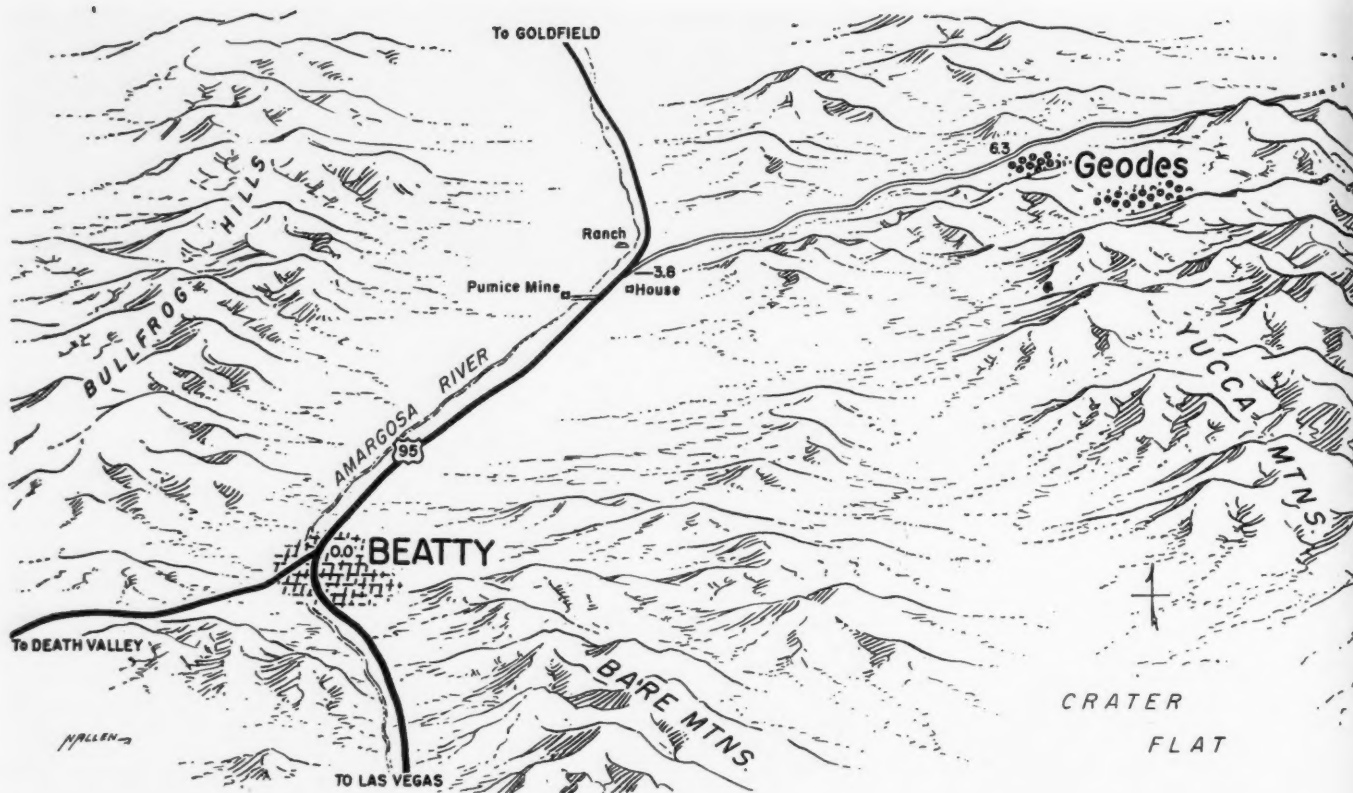
ONE OF THE leading business concerns in Beatty, Nevada, is the Beatty Mercantile company. But the folks who live and trade in that part of Nevada never call it by that

name. To them it is "Brownie's," and the nickname is a symbol of the high regard in which W. H. Brown, the owner, is held by his neighbors.

There's a sign on the building:

"Death Valley Information." Beatty is at the eastern gateway to Death Valley, and since Brownie is an old-timer in the Nevada-California desert, there is no one better qualified to answer the questions which motorists have to ask. Actually, it would require a much bigger sign to enumerate all the goodwill services he dispenses to townsfolk and visitors alike. An hour in the store gave me the impression that it is a combined information, message and social center—with the business of selling merchandise merely a sideline.

It was one of his friendly gestures—to my notion a highwater mark in making tourists happy—that brought Eva Wilson, Lucile and me to Beatty last



June. Early in the spring, it seems, Luther Morris and his wife of Chicago, stopped at Brownie's to buy bacon and eggs. In the conversation usually accompanying such purchases, Mr. and Mrs. Morris dropped the information that they were on a rockhunting vacation and that one of their rockhound ambitions was to pick a few geodes where they grew.

Brownie's information service included even that. He knew where there were geodes—and not far from Beatty. But he wasn't satisfied to give

directions to them. In a matter of moments he had turned the store over to his daughter and was on the way out to the field with the Chicagoans. If Brownie were a collector, the whole thing might have been an excuse to get in a little hunting. But he insists he's no rockhound. He just keeps tab on such things to pass the information on to those interested. So Brownie made the trip just to give a bit of pleasure to the mid-westerners while they were in Beatty.

He succeeded in doing just that.

"Needless to say," Luther Morris wrote to *Desert Magazine*, "we spent the remainder of the day making our selection of geodes and exploring the old mine roads and mines found back in the Yucca Mountains. Mr. Brown, and men like him, seem to flourish more plentifully in the West than around here. Or else this soot and smoke and hustle seems to fog everyone up a bit and hide friendliness."

The material in the field, according to Morris, was made up of whole geodes and much incomplete geode for-

Nevada zebra-tailed lizard, the species which seemed most prominent and active in Lizard Gulch.





Brownie's store in Beatty is center for tourist information. Here Brownie—W. H. Brown—former constable of Death Valley, points out to Eva Wilson some of the attractions of the below-sea-level valley he knows so well.

mation composed of layers of agatized and crystalized material. "If you wish to pass this on to anyone who wants a sure-fire location in a hurry, why that is the place. It is easy to get to and there is plenty of material there. If this helps out any passing tourist or vacationer, who like ourselves had never found any geodes before, why then we feel we are starting to repay *Desert* by emulating you in your efforts to make life more enjoyable for others."

Desert's editorial staff, knowing the enthusiasm collectors have for geodes, passed the letter and sketch map on with the suggestion I check the extent of the field, "And tell us something about Brownie."

So we came to Beatty, a tree-shaded oasis along the course of the underground Amargosa river. Beatty has been a popular spot on the Nevada desert since the first white man came

that way — and probably for a long time before. It is named for William Martin Beatty, who lived with his Indian wife and their children on a little ranch just outside the present town, before the Bullfrog-Rhyolite boom built the town.

Beatty was something of a prospector, but it was Shorty Harris and Ed Cross who struck rich green ore in August, 1904, about eight miles west of Beatty ranch and touched off the excitement which created Rhyolite, a city of stone and concrete business buildings which reached more than 10,000 population at its peak. Beatty became both freighting center and source of water for Rhyolite and her sister cities and all the mines and prospects of the surrounding country.

When the boom cities died, Beatty survived. One reason was its abundant water supply; another, its strategic po-

sition on the road between Goldfield and Las Vegas. And its trees, water and elevation of 3400 feet, made it a pleasant supply center and cooling off place for prospectors and miners for many miles around. Those last features were the ones we appreciated most, reaching Beatty through Daylight pass after an afternoon, night and morning in the heat-drenched sink of Death Valley.

We'd been in Beatty several times before and we knew Brownie by reputation and through correspondence, but this was our first real meeting. As soon as there was a break in the flow of cash and information customers, he studied the map Morris had sent and added a few more landmarks to it. He had no one to relieve him at the moment, he said regretfully. But there were plenty of geodes in the area, and if we didn't go too far—beyond that



Brownie, as the emigrant Wade, the part he played in the Death Valley Centennial pageant, held in Desolation canyon in 1949. With Brownie, left, is Seldom Seen Slim, famous desert prospector.

red hill—we should have no trouble locating them. If we did—come back and see him.

At other meetings, we learned more about Brownie. For 14 years he had been constable of the whole of the Death Valley area to the Nevada state line—the “Law East of the Panamints.” His experiences as constable formed the background for the “Death Valley Sheriff” character on the Pacific Coast Borax Company’s “Old Ranger” radio program, so popular a few years ago.

Brownie first came to the desert in 1920, when the Postal Telegraph company sent him from San Francisco with a Packard truck and trailer loaded with equipment, to reset the telegraph poles between Barstow and Needles. The Santa Fe was being double-tracked and it was necessary to move all the poles over to give them room.

At that time there were only 16 miles of paved road between Needles and San Bernardino. But he liked the country so well that when he was offered the job of lineman on the Tonopah and Tidewater railroad, he quickly accepted. For three years he kept all the instruments working along that famous and now-vanishing line, repaired all batteries, kept waterpumps and engines operating and “just made myself useful.”

Then he was at Ludlow for a long time—holding eleven titles at once,

including chief clerk to the president of the railroad and justice of the peace and deputy clerk—so he could both issue marriage licenses and then marry couples. As justice of the peace, one of his duties was to help select names for the Mexican babies, whose parents would come to him for suggestions. On those occasions everything including the almanac was consulted.

He was station agent at Silver Lake, held various jobs in the valley itself, and was superintendent for the Pacific Coast Borax Company at Death Valley junction from 1942 to 1946. His most recent official connection with Death Valley was in the big Centennial pageant at Desolation canyon in 1949. Brownie and his wife, Louise, with a 16-year-old son and two smaller children, played the Wade family of emigrants.

The oxen for the occasion had been brought in from Utah, Oregon and Hollywood and considerable trouble arose through the inexperience of those trying to handle the animals. But Brownie did not have much trouble with his oxen, since he’d driven 20-mule teams hauling grain in Washington state. One of the high points of his Death Valley days was the trip he took with the last 20-mule team and borax wagon that followed the old borax road into Death Valley. That was in November, 1939, shortly after the opening of the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

At the bridge celebration the 20-mule team and wagon and trailers were driven across the Bay bridge and into San Francisco, with Johnny O’Keefe, an old-time driver at the jerkline. The outfit was then shipped to Mojave, assembled, and driven over the old route to the Harmony Borax Works in Death Valley. That trip was a comparatively fast one, since the wagons carried only hay for the mules and food for the crew, and was completed in nine days.

Besides Johnny O’Keefe, the driver, and Brownie, who acted as cook, the wagon crew was George Ishmael, Shorty Evans, Sonny Wagon, a fellow called “the Candy Kid” and W. W. Cahill. O’Keefe is dead now, and one of Brownie’s prized mementos is the six-foot shot whip the old driver used on this last trip.

On that expedition, Brownie says he proved to the photographers and newspapermen along, that coyotes will talk back. Before daylight one morning he asked them if they would like to hear a coyote holler. Naturally, they would.

“So I let out a warwhoop, and sure enough, two or three coyotes back in the hills answered me. They’ll do it every time if you’re out in the coyote



Geode field on the edge of the Yucca Mountains. The red cliff mountain, left center, is the landmark for the field. Ledge of perlite, carrying some of the geodes can be seen to the right, foreground. “Lizard Gulch” area is just to the left of the car.

country and away from everyone. Wake up in the night sometime out there and holler—and you’ll find out.”

It was much later than we’d planned when we left Brownie’s, but the geode field was only a short distance away, so we set out, zeroing the speedometer in Beatty. We headed northeast on Highway 95, which follows a pretty valley with tree-shaded ranches watered by springs and by the underground Amargosa. The first landmark was a pumice mine to the left of the road, which we passed 3.5 miles from Beatty. At 3.8 we turned right on an unimproved road. This road follows close by the highway for a short distance, then crosses a powerline and swings farther right, winding up a big wash through low hills. Two and a half miles after crossing the pole line, we stopped, facing the red hill, on the left, which Brownie had given us as the principal landmark to the field.

To the right, climbing the steep slope, we could see the great perlite dike in which the geodes had “grown.” The wash was so soft at this point it did not seem advisable to pull out of the double ruts, so we stopped in them. We doubted that our car would be a menace to traffic, since the road continued into the Frenchman’s Flat section of the new Atomic test area—another half million acres of the once-free desert area which have vanished behind our own spreading “Iron Curtain.” And we were right—no other car followed the single-track road while we were there. We later discovered that there is a much better spot to park, turn or camp about one-tenth of a mile farther along.

I doubt if this particular little canyon or side-pocket where we first stopped has any name. So, until I’m corrected, I’m going to call it Lizard

Gulch. I believe that in the few hours we were there, we saw about every variety of that branch of the reptile family that lives in southern Nevada. As soon as we stopped, we saw a fat chuckawalla sunbathing on the pinnacle of a big boulder about 20 feet away, with his back to us. It would, we knew, make a perfect picture if we could get close enough before he was disturbed.

But if he wasn't aware of our presence, other members of the local lizard

fraternity were. While we were grabbing cameras and equipment, a beautiful zebra-tailed specimen raced up the boulder, halted close to the chuckawalla and apparently said a few words to him. The big "chucky" turned his head slowly and contemplated us with the lack of emotion of a cud-chewing cow. Then he turned his back again. But the ring-tailed Paul Revere was insistent and apparently his warning finally sank through, for the chuckawalla scurried clumsily

off the boulder, across the sand and up to the shelter of the wide veranda of his cliff-niche.

The ring-tail remained on his high perch, confident of his own speed until we were quite close, then with a swish was gone. I climbed up the little cliff until I could look into the chuckawalla's apartment. He lay watching me with beady eyes while I shot a picture from some distance. When I tried to move in for a closeup, he slipped back out of sight and, apparently contain-

Beatty, green oasis along the course of the underground Amargosa river of southern Nevada, has been a supply and information center for miners and prospectors since the Bullfrog-Rhyolite boom of 1904-05. Now it is one of the principal gateways to Death Valley National Monument. Bare Mountain, center and right background. Yucca Mountains which contain the geode field, left.



ing the insatiable curiosity of his tribe, refused to stick his neck out again.

When we returned to the car, it was noon—and hot. We were hungry—but there was no shady nook in which to spread a lunch. So we ate in the car — with the door wide open to catch the breeze we hoped would soon come up the wash.

After lunch we set out to check the geode area. As soon as we started climbing the steep grey perlite slope, we saw numerous pieces of broken geodes. But human hammerhounds hadn't been smashing them. In fact, with these thin-shelled hollow rocks which must weather slowly out of the compact perlite, while they are attacked by cold and heat and moisture and the bombardment of rocks from above, it is a wonder that any survive intact.

Most of the complete geodes we found on the slope facing the road were from two to five inches in diameter. Some of them had botryoidal chalcedony centers, some quartz crystals; some were nodules with common opal, agate or chalcedony centers. The matrix of all appeared to be a silicified rhyolite in greys and lavenders which will polish well.

The geodes of Lizard Gulch are strikingly similar to many of those found at Searchlight, Nevada, and also to some I have found in perlite in parts of Arizona. They are not outstandingly beautiful among geodes, but a few will be of interest in any collection. And they are remarkable for their fantastic shapes. Particularly was this true of those I found by continuing across country to the southeast, to the slopes of the next range of hills.

Here, unbroken ones lay about in abundance and they were much larger in size—a number of them bigger than any one man would want to carry. In less than half a mile, I emptied my collecting sack several times, to sort and resort for the best specimens, or the oddest shapes. It was a great deal of fun, and I probably would have continued my search through the afternoon, if it had not been so hot. While it is true that you can collect throughout most of the year—even in this portion of Nevada—you'll find it much more pleasure if you make the trip in late spring or early fall.

In an hour, I found that I had almost emptied my canteen—and that was a sign it was time to head back to the car. When I arrived, I found Lucile and Eva had collected all the geodes they wanted and were busy chasing lizards. The particular specimen occupying their attention at the moment was a colorful Bailey's Collared lizard—and as often seems to be the case with this species, he wasn't making the chase too hard for them.

in fact, he was posing in a variety of positions — chest out, head cocked, looking over his shoulder, full front and profile. While Eva followed him, winding and snapping her camera, he did just about everything but roll over on his back.

As we turned the car around to leave, we saw that the chuckawalla had come out to the edge of his veranda to supervise our departure, and the little zebra-tailed lizard was up on the boulder pinnacle, pumping up and down. We even had trouble with traffic. Two more zebra-tails were doing some mystic sort of dance in the wheel ruts, waving and curling and uncurling their tails at one another.

But we finally got by them without casualties, and headed toward the highway. We were sorry that it was so hot we couldn't stay and become better acquainted with the inhabitants of Lizard Gulch. It would have been pleasant to camp there for days, hiking the surrounding hills to see what they might contain. But we had found the geodes and learned that—barring ravishment by truck collectors—there were enough of them in the surrounding hills to supply all comers.

And like Mr. and Mrs. Morris, we

wanted to express our thanks to Brownie for a good and healthy day in the desert hills. Perhaps, as Luther Morris wrote, Brownie and men like him flourish more plentifully in the West. But a man who will actually go to any effort to make strangers or acquaintances happier—to try to help them just because he wants to help—is rare enough in any land.

WILSONS CARRY ON DESPITE BURNING OF RAINBOW LODGE

Rainbow Lodge, at the base of Navajo Mountain in northern Arizona, burned to the ground in the early morning of August 11. The cause has not been ascertained. A letter from Bill and Katherine Wilson, known to many readers of *Desert Magazine* as the keepers of the lodge for the last 25 years, stated that the guest cottages escaped the flames, and a fine new garage has been converted into a temporary dining and lounging room—so the Lodge is carrying on as usual. Rainbow Lodge is at the end of the motor road for Rainbow Bridge visitors, and the Wilson's, in addition to supplying guest accommodations, also furnish saddle and pack horses for the 14-mile trip to the Bridge.

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



Some one gave Pisgah Bill a chamber of commerce folder from Imperial Valley and he had been reading about the carbon dioxide that came from fissures in the ground around the south end of Salton Sea. They had even set up a plant down there for condensing the gas into dry ice.

"I'll bet that's the same kinda gas that comes from them holes in the ground down the other side o' Badwater," Pisgah told Hardrock Shorty.

Pisgah couldn't talk about anything else. If they could make dry ice in Imperial Valley, why couldn't they make it in Death Valley? He sent to the government printing office for all the literature they had on making dry ice, and the more he read the more certain he was that a new industry was about to be launched in Death Valley.

At first Shorty was skeptical.

He had been listening to Pisgah's dream projects for years and knew that nothing ever came of them. Finally he lost patience.

"Pisgah, yu ol' galoot, you'd better go back t' minin' and ferret about them crazy ideas o' yourn," he finally exclaimed.

"I know all about that dry ice business. I wuz prospectin' down in them Chocolate mountains the summer they put in that dry ice plant at Niland. Everybody thought it wuz a great idea. One ol' geezer down there got the idea he could feed the stuff to his cows and milk ice cream outta 'em. So he busted the stuff up fine and mixed it with the milo maize he wuz feedin' the family milch cow.

"Wuz a fine idea — only it didn't work out right. Froze the cow's stomach and the poor beast nearly starved to death before they could get 'er thawed out again.



"Money from her rugs bought most of the groceries."

When Visitors Came to the Hogan

By SANDY HASSELL

Art work by Charles Keetsie Shirley, Navajo artist

FROM A sitting position on the ground in front of her loom Mrs. Little Whiskers stood up, took a couple of steps backward and looked with satisfaction at her half-woven Navajo rug. She was sure if she worked steadily she could finish it in another moon. When completed it would be the largest rug ever made by any Navajo woman in this part of the reservation. It would be five spans longer and three spans wider than the one Mrs. Bluegoat made last year. Now the women around the trading post were talking more about this rug and less about the one Mrs. Bluegoat had made.

Almost a year ago she had decided to make this rug. That was a short time after her husband, Hosteen Little Whiskers, received his first pension check from Washington, and had started acting so important—even telling her the color of the dresses she should wear. She couldn't see any sense in him making such a fuss about something that he had done a long time ago. To hear him talk and see him act people would think he was the only one in the family who amounted to anything. Didn't people know that she was considered the best weaver in the district? Hadn't two of her rugs won first prize at the fair and

didn't trader Tall Man pay her more for her rugs than he did other Navajo women? Wasn't it the money from her rugs that bought most of the groceries?

Getting the yarn ready for this rug had taken much longer than weaving. First she had saved an extra big sack of wool — as much as it took two strong men to lift. She didn't need this much wool for one rug but when relatives helped with the spinning she always gave them as much wool as they spun. A big rug like this one had to be made outdoors and a special loom made for it. While she had been preparing for this rug she had woven three smaller ones inside the hogan. That was when the weather was bad and she couldn't work outside.

When weaving, about every hour, Mrs. Little Whiskers liked to get up and walk around. This kept her from getting tired. This morning on her first walk she had gone over the hill to the field to see if the corn was sprouting. On her way back when she reached the top of the hill she could see that several cars had stopped at her hogan while she was away. There must have been a dozen people around the loom looking at her rug. Lately many white people had come to look at it and take pictures, but never had this many come at one time. Coming close in she recognized Tall Man but didn't know any of the rest. Tall Man walked forward and greeted her with a light handclasp; then he explained who the people were and what they wanted. They had come from a long distance to take a picture of her rug. They also wanted a picture of her while she was working on it. Would she put on her best clothes and jewelry while they made the picture? Mrs. Little Whiskers didn't mind doing this but she knew it would be better if she made Tall Man ask her several times.

The white men were going to stay all day and had brought many things to eat. Tall Man knew what Navajos liked and had brought flour, baking powder, sugar, coffee and lots of grease. He wanted to have plenty of fried bread and coffee. There were also sacks of fruit and candy and other things in tin cans. This was going to be one day when everybody was going to have all they wanted to eat.

After being properly coaxed, Mrs. Little Whiskers put on her best clothes and got ready for the picture. It seemed that the white men not only wanted pictures of her weaving but they wanted pictures of her spinning and carding wool. Also pictures of her doing many things around the hogan.

At first Mrs. Little Whiskers was

shy with so many white strangers around, but Tall Man told her funny stories and she got to laughing and after a little while she didn't care. These people wanted other Indians in the picture, so all the members of her family were asked to dress up. The sheep, goats, dogs and even old Kellee the burro were brought close to camp. The children were hard to manage at first. When the white men would try to get them in the picture they put their hands over their faces; but after she and Tall Man had scolded them several times they stopped doing this and after a while they got to laughing and acting just like the grown folks.

After a while Tall Man said it would soon be time to eat so he bought a sheep from her. Said he and the white men wanted mutton broiled over the coals. While she broiled mutton she also cooked fried bread and made coffee. The white men even took pictures of her cooking. Silly things, hadn't they ever seen anybody cook before? She knew some white people said Indians were dirty. She was going to show these people she wasn't that kind. Four times when she was making the bread she stopped and washed her hands. And at least half a dozen times that morning she had brushed out the hogan. The white people didn't seem to be very hungry but Hosteen and Tall Man ate mutton until she wondered if there was going to be any left for the children.

The white people wanted a picture of Hosteen, and they did not have to ask but once. Hosteen had put on his best clothes and jewelry without being asked. While they took his picture they wanted Hosteen to talk about the time he had been an old scout. Nothing could have pleased him more. All the time the picture machine was turned toward him he talked and made signs with his hands just as things had happened. Hosteen hadn't been in many of the pictures that morning but now his turn had come and he was acting very important.

The time had come for the white people to leave, for the sun would soon be hiding itself. Mrs. Little Whiskers was tired but this had been a happy day for her—as happy as any she could remember. Everyone had laughed and had a good time, and had all they wanted to eat. People all over the country would see a picture of her making the big rug and know what a fine weaver she was.

Now why was Tall Man giving paper money to the little children? She could see that it was dollar bills, and that was a lot of money for little children. Now he was giving money to the older Indians—two dollars to each one who had helped with the pictures. Yes and

he was giving five to Hosteen. If he gave her two dollars she would be pleased. Now he had come to her and he was going to give her money for he was putting it in her hand—not two or three dollars, but a whole handful of bills, three or four times the amount he had given Hosteen.

Well this settled the question for all time. From now on she and everybody else would know who was the most important person around Hosteen Little Whiskers' camp. No longer would she listen to Hosteen when he would tell her what dress he thought was the prettiest.

TRUE OR FALSE

Not all of Desert's readers can follow the desert trails as often as they would like—but through

the monthly quiz it is possible to visit many interesting places and learn much about this great national playground of the Southwest. These questions include a wide range of subjects which the student of the desert will know—or will want to know. A score of 12 to 14 is fair, 15 to 17 good, 18 or over is excellent. The answers are on page 32.

- 1—The bite of a Chuckawalla lizard sometimes proves fatal. True False
- 2—Cochise was an Apache Indian chief. True False
- 3—Death Valley's Ubehehe crater was active within the last 25 years. True False
- 4—Rainbow trout are caught in the Colorado River below Hoover dam. True False
- 5—The greasewood or creosote bush that grows on the desert is a perennial. True False
- 6—Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon church, never saw Utah. True False
- 7—Calcite is harder than rose quartz. True False
- 8—Navajo weaving is done mostly by the men of the tribe. True False
- 9—George Wharton James wrote *Wonders of the Colorado Desert*. True False
- 10—The Great White Throne is in Zion National Park. True False
- 11—Hopi Kachinas generally are made of clay. True False
- 12—The waterfall known as Great Falls is in Grand Canyon. True False
- 13—Ocotillo is one of the cactus species. True False
- 14—The Wasatch Mountains may be seen from Salt Lake City. True False
- 15—Visitors to the Petrified Forest National Monument in Arizona are permitted to take away specimens not exceeding one pound in weight. True False
- 16—The Giant Ground Sloth roamed the Nevada desert within the memory of Indians now living. True False
- 17—Barstow, California, is located on the bank of the Mojave River. True False
- 18—A ferry boat still operates regularly at Lee's Ferry, Arizona. True False
- 19—Certain species of date palm trees were found growing in the Southwest when the white men first came to this region. True False
- 20—The blossom of the agave or wild century plant is yellow. True False



Showing the exposed shoreline of Lake Mead in the background. In the foreground is the cement slab of one of St. Thomas' former ranch homes.

Ghost of Muddy Valley

By GENE SEGERBLOM
Photographs by Cliff Segerblom

THE OLD Nevada settlement of St. Thomas—or rather what is left of St. Thomas—most of the time is buried 60 feet below the surface of Lake Mead. This year, however, the level of the lake was exceptionally low and St. Thomas emerged from its watery grave.

This was the fifth time since the waters of Lake Mead inundated St. Thomas in 1937 that the water receded enough to reveal the skeletons of once-majestic shade trees and the few remaining cement foundations.

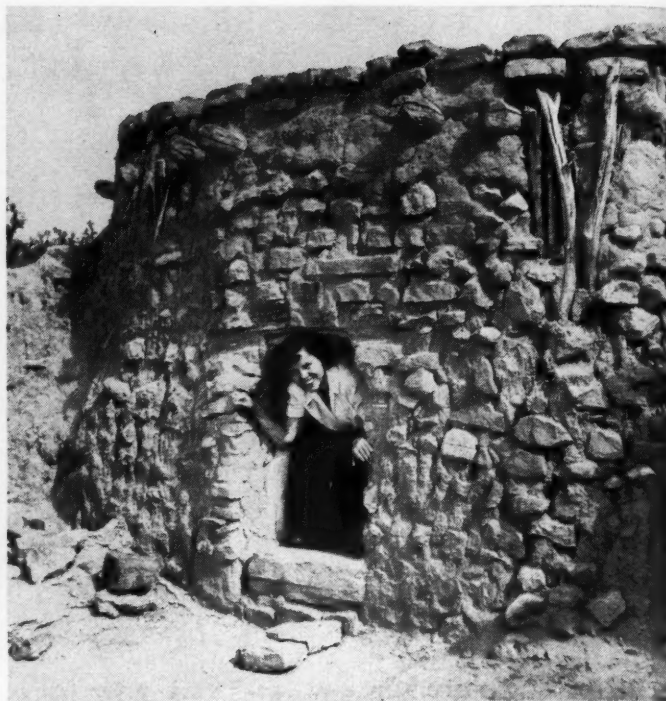
The surface of Lake Mead this year dropped three feet below the elevation

In 1937 when the great reservoir behind Hoover dam was being filled with water it became necessary for the Mormon settlers in the little town of St. Thomas, Nevada, to abandon their homes. It was believed then that the site of St. Thomas would be forever buried beneath the waters of Lake Mead. But excessive demands for power and scanty snowfall in the Rocky Mountains combined in April this year to reduce the water level below the level of the old townsite. Since this story was written the annual June and July flood runoff of the Colorado has again submerged this ghost town of Muddy Valley.

of the old town of St. Thomas which is 1145 feet above sea level. The lake was the lowest it had been since April, 1947, when it was nine feet lower than this year. During the summer months when the snow melted high in the Rockies, the lake again covered the site of this once thriving farm village.



All that remains of the farmhouse which once occupied this site in St. Thomas is the cistern shown in this picture—and the trees which died of too much water.



This replica of a prehistoric Indian pueblo is located at the National Park Service museum at Overton, Nevada. Gene Segerblom, the author, is in the doorway.

Many of the residents of southern Nevada either were born or lived at one time in St. Thomas in the Muddy Valley. In 1864, Utah pioneers came here to establish a Mormon colony along the old Arrowhead trail between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. Irrigation water was readily available from nearby Virgin River. At that time, the Valley was in Pah-ute County, territory of Arizona. By an Act of Congress in 1866, Muddy Valley became part of the present state of Nevada.

Disagreements soon arose between the Mormon settlers and the officials of Lincoln County, Nevada, over taxes and the Mormons returned to Utah, with the exception of Daniel Bonelli. He remained and operated a ferry at Rioville on the Colorado River. This is now known as Bonelli's landing, a fishing camp on the Arizona shore of Lake Mead.

The Mormons returned to southern Nevada in 1881, and St. Thomas with a population of 800, was one of the largest communities in the area until the completion of Hoover Dam and subsequent filling of Lake Mead.

The loss of St. Thomas and approximately 1000 acres of irrigated land has been offset by diversion of the irrigation waters to upstream land, making the cultivation of more land possible.

All that remain of St. Thomas' farmhouses after 14 years beneath the lake are rows of cement foundations and

cellar excavations. The buildings have long since disintegrated.

When the Bureau of Reclamation engineers determined in the early 1930s that St. Thomas would be doomed by the construction of Hoover Dam, government agents acquired all the privately owned land through purchase or, in cases of resentful farmers or other pioneers who refused to leave, through condemnation. Many of these had to be evicted when the lake actually entered their homes.

Most of the population moved to higher ground in Moapa Valley and swelled the population of the nearby villages of Overton and Logandale. Others moved as far away as Las Vegas, 70 miles southwest. A few of the aged pioneers returned to Utah. When St. Thomas does appear, many former residents as well as tourists

St. Thomas appeared above the water level of Lake Mead on March 24. The level of the lake continued falling until May 11 when the flood discharge from the upper watershed began pouring more water into the reservoir than was being discharged at Hoover dam. By May 29 St. Thomas was submerged again. Due to the light runoff from the watershed this year it is expected that St. Thomas will emerge again in 1952.

make a pilgrimage to the desolate ruins.

Oddly enough, flood control experts have pointed out that St. Thomas would have been lost forever in its watery grave had it not been for the growth of Los Angeles and the industrial southwest. During and since World War II, the metropolitan area used such great amounts of power from Hoover Dam, the increased flow of water through the dam's generators lowered the level of the lake. St. Thomas made its first appearance during this period.

Inundated too by the lake, but permanently, is the prehistoric Indian settlement "The Lost City." This large group of pueblos is located in the Valley just opposite St. Thomas. Pueblo Indians are believed to have occupied this village from about 800 to 1200 A.D. It is the only permanent Indian village found in this area. As much as possible of the irreplaceable evidence of Indian culture was salvaged before the waters covered it forever. This Indian lore was placed in a museum of archeology at nearby Overton.

• • • Atom Tests Planned in Nevada . . .

According to information from representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission further tests of nuclear explosives are scheduled to be held on the AEC reservation in Nevada northwest of Las Vegas "in the near future." The new tests, it was stated, will be "under controlled conditions" with adequate provision for safety.

What Worth the Desert?

By WILLIAM M. MCKEEVER
Darwin, California

O silent terrain, gullied here by rivers' ghosts,
Thy sands in wavelet patterns of oceans
that were,
But are gone, and in their ancient beds the
hosts
Of horned outlaws and fanged who creep
and stir
In the shadows of outlawed tree and shrub,
Whose mightiest stature we liken to a scrub,
And all subordinate to thy rocks and tor-
tured 'scape
Where piling clouds have jettisoned watery
loads
To wash the faces of monarch crags, per-
chance reshape
Some outflung gorge—or puny Man's poor
tendrill roads,

I ask thee, what is thy pain?

I beseech thee, what is thy gain?

Thou must have meaning were thou meant
to be
Such contrast to water-blest lands that bear
and multiply
All their charges that are living, numerous,
yet dated in Eternity,
Even their kingdoms, empires born them-
selves to die.
But thy datelessness is like Eternity in sweet
repose

As if veriest Time must seek his where to
lie and doze
Away from turmoil and demand of self-
repeating Life,
And in that life, all too fleet within its
time-set dates,
Is the very Mother soil subordinate to sup-
port its strife,
The living, the dying, the living again while
Eternity waits.

Old Desert, I know thy worth;

My Desert, I love thy earth!

DESERT HOME

By GRACE PARSONS HARMON
Desert Hot Springs, California

I've got me a place with adobe walls,
Where the moonlight spills, and the
sunlight falls,—
A snug little place, with a red tile floor,
A ceiling high-beamed, and a great latched
door.

There's a fireplace built in a corner, too,
To burn wood stacked up, as the Indians
do—

A warm, friendly place for a chat or fun
As neighbors drop in when work is done.

The sand may blow in—but the winds
sing through—

The door stands wide, and the windows,
too—

Then the desert rain comes! How it fills the
air

With the greasewood's scent, like the
desert's prayer!

DESERT PRAYER

By ELIZABETH COBBOLD
Los Angeles, California

My fireside is the smoke tree
With ocotillo flame,
Its warmth the sunbaked rockface,
Its hearth never the same.
My bed's a roll of blankets
Stretched on the grey-gold sand,
My friend, the little burro,
Pal of the desert land.
I do not pray for cities,
I do not pray for wealth,
I just pray God to leave me
My desert and my health.



Photo by Ivan B. Mardis

FAMINE IN NAVAJOLAND

By FERN TAPSCOTT BELL
Aztec, Arizona

Let me sing it now, my song,
While my heart remembers
Hogan fires with mutton ribs
Sizzling on the embers.

Hungry People wait outside
With a hopeful simper.
Coyotes howl against the dark.
Wind People stand and whimper.

Gone are the sheep from Navajoland.
Hushed is the Trail of Song.
Gods hear not the hollow voice
Of a hungry throng.

Comes the Cold Woman from the north,
Leaning on the wind,
Shrieking with each frost-plumbed breath,
Gaunt and hunger-thinned.

It is finished now, my song,
Hunger thoughts intrude.
Ancient gods, take back your wrath.
Give The People food.

This Brotherhood

By TANYA SOUTH

You stand before me, an immortal
soul.
Or rich or poor, or bonded or a
king,
Or any other station, any role
That you may play, or any outward
thing
Can matter nothing. You are still my
brother,
And be your color yellow, black or
white,
You still are, like the soul of any
other,
My brother dear. There is no brighter
light
Than recognition of the one true clan,
This brotherhood called Man.

DESERT MAID

By JEAN ANDERSON
Seattle, Washington

Tawny mesa spreading far
At noonday, dawn or starry night,
Holds this blossom of the desert,
This miracle of young delight.

Lovely maiden of her tribe
Moves with swift, elusive grace.
Strangers may but rarely glimpse
The radiant shyness of her face.

Quiet beauty of the mesa
Hovers gently where she goes.
Only native folk are sure
How a desert blossom grows.

*Note: While traveling in the Southwest
recently, I saw this beautiful Indian
girl, at The Gap Trading Post, Arizona.*

MY DESERT

By EVA L. BROWNE
Las Vegas, Nevada

Land of the pale hot skies, and gray earth
lying under.
Land of the molten air, ashes of the white
sun's plunder.
Land of the unclothed hills, bare as the
babe new-born,
Washed with improbable color, of useless
drapery shorn;
Rejecting man and his seed, his puny plow-
ing and reaping,
As in a cauldron tossed, purified bleached
and steeping.

My desert, Improbable One!
My desert, Facing the Sun!

GHOST TOWN

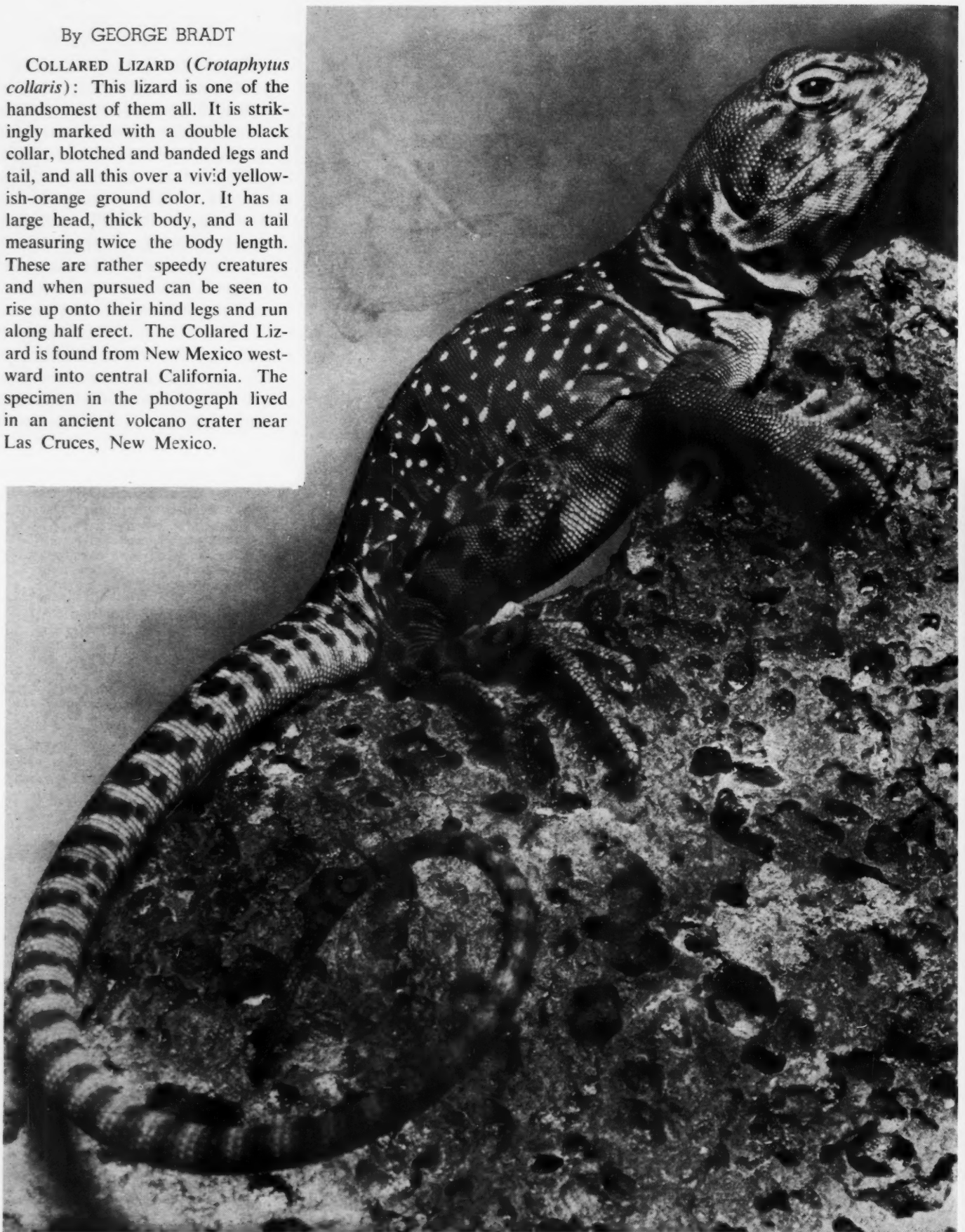
By MIRIAM LENART
Chicago, Illinois

Ah, the pretty little ghost town
That once was a host town
To a silver vein.
But its pockets were picked
Of silver so quick
That only the ghosts remain.

He Wears a Collar for Identification

By GEORGE BRADT

COLLARED LIZARD (*Crotaphytus collaris*): This lizard is one of the handsomest of them all. It is strikingly marked with a double black collar, blotched and banded legs and tail, and all this over a vivid yellowish-orange ground color. It has a large head, thick body, and a tail measuring twice the body length. These are rather speedy creatures and when pursued can be seen to rise up onto their hind legs and run along half erect. The Collared Lizard is found from New Mexico westward into central California. The specimen in the photograph lived in an ancient volcano crater near Las Cruces, New Mexico.



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PICTURES OF THE MONTH

Ocotillo Blossoms . . .

First prize in Desert Magazine's August photo contest was awarded to K. J. Shepard of Tucson, Arizona, whose picture shows the fine detail of the Ocotillo in blossom. The photograph was taken with a Graphic Master View camera with Super XX film, K2 filter, 1/5 second at f. 4.5.



Storm Over Wupatki . . .

Hubert A. Lowman of South Gate, California, was winner of second prize with the accompanying picture of the ancient ruins in the Wupatki National Monument in northern Arizona. Storm clouds hung over the desert as the photograph was taken with Speed Graphic using high speed panchromatic film, A25 filter, 1/50 second at f. 19.

LETTERS . . .

When They Find a Lost Mine . . .

Joplin, Missouri

Desert:

I have enjoyed reading in your magazine about the many lost mines and treasures in the Southwest.

But I have been disappointed in the absence of any information as to the re-discovery of any of these mines. Recently I read in a national magazine the report of a salesman who stated he had found the "Lost Dutchman" in Arizona. Why doesn't *Desert* give us the information about the finding of these mines?

EVANS W. BUSKETT

Dear Evans: Desert Magazine has a standing offer of \$100 for first publication rights to the story of the re-discovery of any of the 40-odd lost mines and treasures which have been published in this magazine during the last 10 years. Reports of the re-location of these old mines appear frequently in the newspapers—but they invariably turn out to be false alarms. The "Lost Dutchman" has been "found" at least 20 times within my memory. When they really find one you'll read about it in Desert.—R. H.

Geronimo Was "All Injun" . . .

Globe, Arizona

Desert:

In your August issue I read the letters relating to the Apache warrior, Geronimo, and the controversy as to his parentage. Later I looked over some old newspaper clippings given me by a friend and found one published in the Arizona Silver Belt in 1885 in which the following was quoted from the Socorro, New Mexico, Bullion:

"The Socorro Bullion states that Geronimo is not an Indian; that he was born in La Joya of poor but honest parents. His father, a noted fiddler, was Jose Luis Peralta, and was well known in Socorro County, where giving music at fandangoes was his charge as well as bread and butter. Geronimo did not live to man's estate under the paternal wing. His biographer, Professor Longuemare, says when he was 13 years of age, he, his mother and two sisters were returning from Manzanita to Socorro when they were taken captive by the Navajos. Some years after their capture Geronimo was separated from his mother and sisters and

sold to the Apaches, with whom he has since remained, and has taken rank second only to Nacha, chief of the Chiricahuas — because of his refined cruelty, ferocity and cunning. . . . Notwithstanding the professor disclaims Indian lineage for Geronimo, we must be allowed to think otherwise. We have seen Geronimo many times and failed to recognize the suavity of manner so marked in the Castilian race. To us, he seemed all Injun and a good deal of him."

The editor of the Silver Belt at that time was Judge Aaron H. Hackney who had come to Globe from Silver City in 1878. Previous to that he had lived in Old Mesilla for nearly 20 years and had seen Geronimo many times.

CLARA T. WOODY

Tour for Collectors . . .

San Rafael, California

Desert:

I am planning an expedition through the deserts of Nevada and California this fall and want to contact three or four possible companions who would like to go along in search of minerals, petrified wood, etc.

I have the car for the trip, and would only ask that each pay his own share of the expenses.

FRANK PENNINGTON
11 Vendola Drive

Rooms and Baths for Everyone . . .

Angel's Camp, California

Desert:

It was with surprise and chagrin that we read in Lelande Quick's "Amateur Gem Cutter" page in your August issue the statement that Angel's Camp does not have adequate housing accommodations for the next convention of the California State Federation of Mineral Societies.

We feel Mr. Quick has been grossly misinformed as to the facilities available here. We want to assure you that we have a delightful place for such a convention, and provision will be made for the accommodation of all who come.

W. G. DANIEL, President
Calveras Gem & Mineral Society

Rocks for Wheel-Chair Prospectors

Tucson, Arizona

Desert:

Liked your comment about the "rockhogs." Why not have them scatter some of their excess material in a centrally located level space so the wheel-chair prospectors and rockhounds, and the pebble puppies of the toddler set, could have a field trip?

SYLVIA SADDLER

Salome—and Dick Wick Hall . . .

Salome, Arizona

Desert:

I didn't like your article about Salome in your August magazine. I think before a person writes an article he should know some facts.

One fact is that Dick Wick Hall's grave and home are owned by his children who will not let anyone touch them. In fact, his brother who lives in Salome, can't fix the house because he can't get permission from the children.

Another fact is—if people like the Shefflers who came to Salome and spent lots and lots of money in development had stayed home the town of Salome today would be a ghost town.

The main thing I am trying to say is that I don't want any more of your magazine.

RALPH K. FAIR
Manager for Sheffler's

Ralph Fair: Desert Magazine has nothing to gain financially in advocating that the Dick Wick Hall home be preserved as a historical monument. But we think it would be very much to the credit and advantage of the community of Salome to do this. We think most of the old-timers in Arizona and elsewhere who knew Dick Wick Hall will share our viewpoint. We'll have to reject your explanation—it doesn't make sense.

—R. H.

Holding Back the Flood Waters . . .

Mountain Center, California

Desert:

You know for many years I have been building little check dams in the ravines which wind their way down the north slope of California's Santa Rosa Mountains.

I am glad to report that during the recent cloudburst I had an opportunity to see how well these dams work, and that they were a big success. They completely stopped the runoff of water in some of the canyons. The water simply soaked into the ground and will result in more beautiful vegetation on the mountainside, and better underground storage for the date gardens in the valley below.

I can recommend such dams to every owner of mountain property. The dams are easily built out of native rock. I will be glad to show my system of dams to anyone who is interested enough to drive to my home at Ribbonwood on the Pines-to-Palms road.

WILSON HOWELL

Spring Carpet for the Desert

By MARY BEAL

TRAVELING ALONG Mojave Desert roads in the spring, sizable patches of soft green may catch your eye, spreading out over the gravelly or stony ground like fine rugs. On dry mesas and stony uplands these inviting patches are common, softening the barren look of scores of arid stretches. Their green color often has a tinge of slate, with touches of deep red, rose, or purple. You'll find it intriguing to inspect carefully one of these verdant carpets. Ten to one it will be made up of *Oxytheca* or *Chorizanthe* plants, small members of the prolific Buckwheat Family, which includes many first-class fabricators of ground-covering, the desert harboring a goodly share of them in refreshing profusion.

One of the commonest of these small-fry is . . .

Oxytheca perfoliata

This singular little herb has no common name in general use, a strange oversight for a plant with so much individuality, though *Oxytheca* isn't a difficult cognomen, even for a botanical novice.

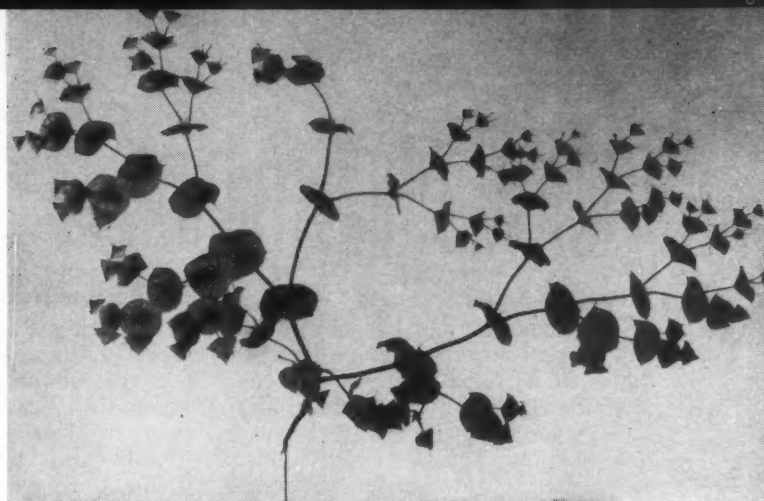
A low widely-branching plant standing 3 to 7 inches high and spreading out from 4 to 12 inches across, it rises from a small basal rosette of spatulate leaves an inch or so long. The short erect main stem branches repeatedly by 2s, often by 3s at the first node. The leaves on the branches are replaced by conspicuous circular or somewhat triangular bracts, tipped with delicate spines at the apex of the 3 ribs.

The peculiarity that intrigues the novice is the way the stems pierce the saucer-like bracts, rising from the center as twin stems, this double branching continuing several times. The minute white or pinkish flowers nestle in the center of the disks against the base of the twin branches, a solitary involucre in each disk. There are 3 to 7 flowers clustered in each involucre, which is deeply cleft into 4 narrow lobes tipped with needle-like spines as long as the lobes.

The protruding stamens are tipped by bright-red anthers. You'll need a magnifying glass to discover these distinguishing points but I'm sure you'll marvel at the delicate perfection of these miniatures and be glad you made close study of their interesting features.

As it ages the whole plant stiffens and loses its green colors, turning reddish or dusty-rose. It remains thus for many months, its most attractive state. Taken indoors out of reach of wind and other adverse conditions, its decorative form and coloration seem everlasting. No doubt they become more fragile as time goes by but their appearance is unchanged. In my home are a few such specimens, gathered several years ago, their unusual coloring often attracting the notice of visitors. It is found frequently on mesas, plains, and slopes above 2000 feet in the Mojave Desert, western Nevada, and northern Arizona, thriving on gravelly and sandy soils, in bloom from May to July.

In the western Mojave Desert is a yellow prostrate species,



Oxytheca perfoliata, one of the most common of the little buckwheat carpets.

Oxytheca luteola

Its pattern is made up of several branching stems 2 to 5 inches long, spread out from the base, the herbage rather hairy and the whole plant yellowish. The tiny rounded long-temmed leaf blades are in pairs at the lower nodes but mostly basal. At each node are also 2 or 3 spreading, needle-like bracts and the stemless involucre, which are deeply divided into 5 very narrow, unequal lobes, bristle-tipped and out-spread. The entire nodal set-up is like a sparkling star, centered by a cluster of several tiny flowers. The wee yellow calyx is almost round and more-or-less hairy, much resembling a corolla.

It thrives in alkaline soils, especially about the dry lakes of the western Mojave Desert and ranging into the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Oxytheca trilobata

This engaging species comes out in maroon coloring. From a basal tuft of spatulate, slightly hairy leaves (up to 2 inches long) it rises erectly and soon branches widely, from 4 inches to over a foot high. Atop the first short node it branches by 3s, and above that usually in pairs. The bracts are deeply cleft into 3 spine-tipped lobes and the stemmed involucre are as deeply 5 lobed, each lobe ending in an equally long bristle. At the top of the stout wooly tube of the white calyx its 6 out-spread lobes are cleft into 3 lanceolate segments, margined irregularly. This is truly captivating, a prize-winner under the lens. It favors dry slopes above 3000 feet elevation in the Joshua Tree National Monument and the western borders of the Mojave Desert for its desert locations, but is very common in the bordering mountains and on down the western slopes.

• • •

Fairy Duster for Domestic Gardens . . .

Experiments in progress at the *Desert Magazine* gardens during the last two years indicate that *Calliandra eriophylla*, the pretty perennial known as Fairy Duster, not only does well under cultivation, but is an attractive shrub for any home landscape.

Two plants sprouted from seed by Ted Hutchinson of the Greasewood Greenhouses at Lenwood, near Barstow, have grown luxuriantly reaching a height of 2½ feet. In March and April they are covered with fluffy pink and white blossoms which look like an exploded ball of thread. With frequent watering they blossomed twice in one year.

Volunteer plants found growing near the parent plants were transplanted, and one out of six of the transplants lived. The seeds are in a pod which opens on maturity spreading the little "beans" on the ground where they may be gathered.

MINES AND MINING . . .

Trona, California . . .

The route in the Panamint range and Saline valley area will be cut more than half its present length when two new roads, now under construction, are complete. A ten and a half mile road, privately constructed by William Skinner and Roy Hunter, extending northeastward from the county road to the Gold Belt spring area in the Panamints and a county-constructed road from a point on state highway 190 between Keeler and Panamint Springs to the southern end of Saline valley will greatly benefit operators of talc mines in these isolated sections.—*Inyo Independent*.

Goldfield, Nevada . . .

Newmont Mining Corporation, according to report, plans to revamp its gold mill into a tungsten concentrating plant as soon as sufficient commercial grade scheelite is assured for steady operation. The outlook is favorable for substantial supplies from Coaldale, Hawthorne, Round Mountain and other areas. Newmont is developing the Seligman lead-silver-zinc property in the Hamilton district near Ely, recently acquired on a purchase option from Patrick Fraser.—*Los Angeles Times*.

Mojave, California . . .

The Metal and Nonmetallic Mineral Mining convention of the American Mining Congress is scheduled to be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California, October 22-25. Arrangements for the convention are under the direction of Harvey S. Mudd, chairman of the Western Division of the American Mining Congress, and Ross D. Leisk, general manager of Sunshine Mining company, Kellogg, Idaho. Federal Government officials charged with defense mobilization, stimulation of mineral production, stockpiling, and wage and price stabilization are being invited to address the meeting.—*Mojave Desert News*.

Winnemucca, Nevada . . .

Plans are under way for development of the Little Jupiter gold-lead mine in Grass Valley, 16 miles southwest of Winnemucca, and construction of a 50-ton concentration mill, according to Alexander Hutton, engineer for Sonoma corporation. Officials of the corporation are: T. W. Baker, construction engineer of Portland, Oregon, president; Joseph A. Hall, secretary; Fred C. Krives, assistant engineer; and Lyle Bradley, mill superintendent.—*Humboldt Star*.

Henderson, Nevada . . .

Following the recent signing of a letter of intent by the U. S. General Services administration, it was announced that establishment of the new titanium plant at Henderson, Nevada, will increase the world production of titanium eight-fold. This will be the first large scale and self-contained plant for the production of titanium metal by Titanium Metals Corporation of America and will require immediate expenditure of \$14,000,000 in new construction at the site of the former Basic Magnesium plant. Terms of the company's contract with the government call for initial production of 3600 tons of the metal a year. Operations are expected to reach this level by late 1952. The project will require the employment of 1000 men.—*Las Vegas Review*.

Winnemucca, Nevada . . .

Purchase of a group of lead-silver claims in the Gold Run mining district, 30 miles southwest of Winnemucca in Pompernick valley was recently completed by Mrs. L. B. Lowman of Winnemucca. It is planned to start construction of buildings and roads immediately. J. A. Freeman will be general manager of the operation; S. E. Davis will be mine superintendent; W. E. Blake will be geologist and Mrs. Lowman will manage the office.—*Humboldt Star*.

Winnemucca, Nevada . . .

Government engineers have approved a U. S. loan for the development of the Bottomley-Rogers uranium mine in Rocky Canyon. Sampling and assaying has shown a metallic uranium content of 1.88 percent. A content as low as 0.15 percent is considered of commercial grade. The deposit is the first in the United States to be classified as pitchblende, the primary ore, and its secondary mineral, gummite. A broad vein has been traced 110 feet on the surface.—*Pioche Record*.

Tucson, Arizona . . .

Arizona State Department of Mineral Resources has again opened a field office in Tucson with field engineer Axel L. Johnson in charge. The purpose of the department is to assist small mine operators with the new federal regulations designed to aid the mining industry. Field offices in Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson have been made possible by the additional \$50,000 recently appropriated by the state legislature.—*Tombstone Epitaph*.

Grants, New Mexico . . .

For the second time in nine months, news of a huge uranium strike along the mesas near Grants, New Mexico, has been announced. The original discovery was made at Haystack Mountain, 15 miles northwest of the carrot center. The new find is located at Laguna, about 30 miles east. On April 27 an Indian, Joy Sinyella of Laguna, brought a piece of uranium-bearing limestone to the office of the Grants Beacon and asked Publisher Glyne Bailey whether or not it contained the precious material. A Geiger check showed the rock to be "very hot." Sinyella was advised to keep his find as quiet as possible until arrangements could be made with the Department of Interior and the Tribal Council for a prospector's permit by a reputable mining company; but other Indians learned of the discovery and bootleg prospecting has been underway at various points on the reservation, though Federal law provides stiff penalties for such activity.

Caliente, Nevada . . .

Officials of the Lincoln mines division of Black Rock Mining corporation have announced plans to build, within the near future, a \$600,000 tungsten concentrating plant west of Hiko. The plant will be designed to treat 250 tons daily. At present, approximately 60 tons of ore are being trucked daily to Bishop from Hiko for processing.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*.

Gardnerville, Nevada . . .

Joe Morris, Emery W. Grauhke and J. S. Drendel recently have incorporated the Metallurgical Development company to operate mills for custom processing of ores in Douglas County. The corporation has leased the mill of the Alpine Mining and Milling company in the Pinenut area and is capitalized for \$100,000 with 60,000 shares of common stock at \$1 and 40,000 shares of preferred stock at 8 per cent.—*Record-Courier*.

Bisbee, Arizona . . .

The mine boom in the new Laverder pit area has necessitated the removal of 200 buildings to a new site 1000 yards away. The last building to be moved by the R. C. Burke moving company was one of the largest projects of its kind ever attempted in the west. The 300-ton brick structure, formerly the Shattuck-Denn office building, required 60 days of preparation and blasting of foundations before it could begin its one-foot-in-ten-minutes trip to the new location. The building contained a 10-ton safe.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

HERE AND THERE . . . on the Desert

ARIZONA

More Streets Than Chicago . . .

TUCSON—Members of Tucson's three-year-old street naming and numbering committee have made the interesting announcement that Tucson has more street names than Chicago and that there are only seven through-streets in town with the same name from beginning to end. Committee Chairman, H. A. Arnold, is the MC of a Sunday morning radio contest which will award a cash prize to the person who turns up a single block in Tucson that has the same system of numbering houses on all four sides. As yet, there have been no winners. Arnold hopes that the necessary ordinance will be passed to establish a uniform system of numbering and naming the town's streets.—*Tucson Citizen*.

Was It a Wolf or a Dog? . . .

WINSLOW—Report that a wild dog or wolf, has been attacking sleeping tourists about 40 miles west of Winslow on Highway 66, is being investigated by game and fish officials. A tourist who had pulled off the road for a nap, reported that he had been awakened about 3:30 to find a dog or wolf biting his face. The man was treated at the Winslow hospital. Later, a 20-months-old baby was dragged 20 or 30 feet before its parents were awakened in another mysterious attack by the animal. Both attacks took place on the southside of the highway.—*Coconino Sun*.

Wanted—10,000 Scorpions . . .

TUCSON—Dr. H. L. Stahnke, director of the research laboratory at Arizona State college, Tempe, wants 10,000 scorpions, alive and kicking. He wants the little fellow which rarely exceeds two inches in length and is yellowish, greenish yellow or straw color over its entire body. This is the deadly species. Non-poisonous scorpions are stockier and sometimes hairy. Collection depots are being established in Phoenix, Globe and Tucson. John Ove, Railway Express agent at Tucson, explained that his company will guarantee safe shipment of the scorpions to Tempe. They may not be sent through the mail. The scorpion serum supply is dangerously low and Dr. Stahnke says there is a tremendous need for a large supply in this area. In recent weeks the serum is credited with saving the lives of two little Tucson girls, Rachael Barraza, 4, and Carol Kenworth, 3.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Rare Lynx Is Caught . . .

TUCSON — Albert Goosens, of Rancho Estrellita on the Thornydale road, recently befriended a thin and strange-looking kitten which he found, apparently in distress, under a tree on his ranch. At first the kitten vigorously resented the human interest angle in his life but thrived on milk and horse meat. As it grew, Goosens called in one of the famed Lee brothers, lion hunters of this area, who diagnosed the breed of the cat as Arizona lynx, a relatively rare critter to be found now. The animal has been sent to Goosens' hometown zoo in Rochester, N. Y. Its name? Why, Tucson, of course.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Flagstaff Was Resort in 638 A.D. . . .

FLAGSTAFF—From evidence 850 to 1300 years old, Prof. John C. McGregor and archeologists from the University of Illinois who have been working with the Museum of Northern Arizona have solved mysteries about the Cohonina camp sites leading to belief that the almost forgotten tribes came to this area only during the summer hunting season. None of the houses had fire places inside, evidence of summer occupation only. Tree rings in wood and charcoal found from outdoor fires, date the sites at 638 to 1030 A.D. Although 7300 pieces of pottery were recovered, mostly in broken state, this total is far below that to be expected and points to temporary occupancy with everything of value removed from the site each season. On the wall of a small canyon the archeologists found petroglyphs which may have been made by the Cohoninas.—*Coconino Sun*.

Arizona Leads in Cotton . . .

CASA GRANDE—Half of Arizona state's farm land is planted in cotton this year in order to meet government demands for this basic commodity. The Arizona Cooperative Cotton Growers Association expects production in 1951 to exceed the \$118,000,000 crop of 1950. Arizona leads the nation in the per-acre production of short staple cotton with the 905 pound-per-acre crops, more than tripling the national average of 265 pounds. The state also ranks first in the production of American-Egyptian cotton, a stronger variety of extra-long staple cotton.—*Casa Grande Dispatch*.

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\$3990 WILL BUY a well-constructed one-bedroom home in the Dos Palmas Estates. Six-inch walls of poured pumice-concrete. A beautiful desert location — only nine miles northeast of Palm Springs. No Fog, No Smog! R. H. McDonald, Desert Hot Springs, California.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Brawley, California

Lost Miners Are Found . . .

QUARTZSITE — Howard Sharke, 62, and Jack Frost, 55, two miners living at Quartzsite narrowly escaped death when their jeep broke down near the Kofa range of mountains where they had planned to inspect a nearby claim. They had taken only 2½ gallons of water and the day was exceedingly hot. They started on foot for the camp at Horn but Sharke soon found the heat too great and drew a map for Frost who attempted to go on alone. He took a wrong turn and became lost. When Frost failed to return, Sharke went in search of him but had to give up. An organized searching party located Sharke first. He was very weak. Four hours later Frost was located by a Civil Air Patrol plane. Both men were taken to Yuma for treatment for exposure but suffered no lasting effects of the ordeal.—*Palo Verde Valley Times.*

Are the Navajos Starving? . . .

WINDOW ROCK — The twenty-year-old controversy over the condition of the Navajo Indians has flared up again with a variety of reports pro and con. Jim Counselor, veteran New Mexican Indian trader, asserts that 12,000 Navajos in four New Mexico counties are on the brink of starvation. It is said that 80 Navajo families out of every one hundred sit down to only two meals a day with nothing to eat but fried bread and coffee. Allan G. Harper, area director of the Navajo and Hopi reservations, denied that the Indians are starving but said that there is without doubt much malnutrition on the 15,000,000 acres of tribal lands. He stated that the only salvation for the underfed Indians will be the fulfillment of the 10-year \$88,000,000 rehabilitation program approved by Congress last year, which is somewhat slowed down during the present national emergency. Five officials from four states have been assigned to tour the area in October and report back to the Governor's Interstate Council on Indians.—*Tucson Daily Citizen.*

They Still Ride . . .

TOMBSTONE—The cowboy of the Southwest still rides the rangeland. He is not the gaudy hero of the movies. The modern Tombstone cowboy wears the same kind of hat, boots, levis, neckerchiefs and at times chaps when necessary. Many still roll their own, swing an expert rope and handle branding irons with skill. He ropes calves, bulldogs steers and busts bronses with the best who ever lived. Only one thing is missing from the old picture. He no longer needs the old six-gun. The adventurous old Southwest lives on with Tombstone's cowboys.—*Tombstone Epitaph.*

TOMBSTONE — Ross Stefan, 16, of Tucson, has recently finished an oil painting depicting early Tombstone. Critics have stated that young Ross has a most promising future. Reproduction rights of one of his pictures, "Mission of San Xavier del Bac" have been purchased by the nation's largest producer of Christmas cards.—*Tombstone Epitaph*.

YUMA — R. H. McElhaney has been elected president of the board of directors of the newly-formed Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. McElhaney formerly was president of the Gila Valley Power District, and was president of the Wellton-Mohawk Operating company. — *Yuma Daily Sun*.

Dr. V. M. Slipper, nationally famous astronomer, recently marked 50 years' service with Lowell Observatory, 35 of these years as director. — *Coconino Sun*.

CALIFORNIA

It's a Real Live Ghost Town . . .

CHINA LAKE — Says Bob Hubbard, in the *Calico Print*, "Thirty years ago if you saw that many new faces in town, you could be sure the word was out there was a new strike in Randsburg. Now, chances are it's another bunch of rockhounds from the city, getting away from smog and traffic congestion, seeing the only real old western mining town in the whole state of California." Randsburg, perched high on the parched Rand mountains, at an elevation of 3500 feet, is only 150 miles from Los Angeles via Mojave on U. S. 6 or via San Bernardino on U. S. 395. But it's just a bit off the beaten track, and only in the last year or two have residents and business men realized they are living in a veritable museum—or, as many tourists express it, "It's a real live ghost town." Gold, silver and tungsten have provided the foundation of Rand District since the spring of 1895 when Charles Austin Burcham, John Singleton, and Frederic M. Mooers filed claims on what became the Yellow Aster. — *Rocketeer*.

Food for Lake Havasu Bass . . .

BLYTHE—Another step in the development of the Colorado River fish took place recently when 8000 golden shiner minnows were planted in Lake Havasu by the California Division of Fish and Game. There has been a definite shortage of forage fish for the development of large mouth bass. It is hoped that the golden shiner minnow will thrive and become abundant food for the game fish.—*Palo Verde Valley Times*.



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Blythe Intercepts Insects . . .

BLYTHE — Quarantine inspectors at the California border east of Blythe, gateway to the Coachella Valley, intercepted the second highest total of plant material and the seventh highest number of insects during inspections throughout the state in the month of June, according to A. P. Messenger, chief of the Bureau of Plant Quarantine. Some of the insects include the spotted cucumber beetle from Maryland, the cherry fruit fly from the Pacific Northwest, the flower beetle from North Carolina, a European weevil from New York and specimens of citrus white flies from Texas.—*Indio News*.

He Wants to Be Alone . . .

BISHOP — An Inyo-Mono realtor has received the following letter: "I am looking for some mountain property . . . 1/4 acre or less in a remote location with no neighbors for miles. I would like a small one or two room house on this land. House does not need to have running water, electricity or inside plumbing. I want a very rough place . . . I was thinking of some old ghost town property. Water must be available and the house able to be made livable. The harder to get to, the better . . . I will pay \$400 cash for such a place, or more if necessary." Can anyone help?—*Inyo Register*.

Desert Prospector Dies . . .

CHINA LAKE—George Benko, 72, one of the discoverers of the Big Dyke mine in the Rand mining district and well known to many desert folks, died recently in Portage, Pa. A native of Austria, Benko came to the United States in 1906. After ten years of coal mining in Pennsylvania and copper mining in Arizona, he came to the Mojave desert where in 1940 he built a home in Homewood canyon, near Trona, which became a mecca for visitors from all over the world. After months in an Auburn sanatorium last year, Benko went to Portage, Pa., where he lived, until his death, with his nephew, Dr. John H. Benko. Pat and George Sturtevant wrote the story of "Prospector of Homewood Canyon" in the June, 1950 issue of *Desert Magazine*.

New Name for Old Camp . . .

MOJAVE—Muroc is no more. It died at midnight on July 31 when it became Edwards, California. The change became necessary, according to Lt. Michael J. Tashjian, adjutant of Edwards Air Force base, in order to make it conform to the area which it serves. The renamed post office of Edwards, will serve Edwards Air Force base and the entire town of Muroc.—*Mojave Desert News*.

Old Papers Have New Home . . .

RANDESBURG—The end of an era for desert newspapermen came when the Hubbard Printing company moved from historic Randburg to the newly erected quarters at Ridgecrest in July of this year. The Hubbards, Paul, Mabel and Bob have operated the business for the past 14 years, antedating the coming of the Naval Ordnance Test Station and consequent growth of Ridgecrest and Inyokern by several years. They publish three weekly newspapers: the *Ridgecrest Times Herald*, the *Rocketeer*, and the *Argonaut* plus two monthly publications, *Mineral Notes* and *News and Calico Print*.—*Times Herald*.

They Were Nomads . . .

IDYLLWILD — According to Bill and Edna Price of Idyllwild, many hundreds of miles of the southwest region of the U. S. are still untouched by modern conveniences. And they should know, for they spent a decade roaming the mesas with a string of burros, returning to indoor living only when they found an abandoned miner's shack or prospector's dugout. Their journey, during the depression years, took the Prices through the arid wastelands of New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona and California. They lived mostly off the land through which they passed, on a diet of beans, Mormon tea, biscuits

Life on the Desert . . . CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Life on the desert is seldom drab and commonplace. Often it is exciting and thrilling. Many of those who live in this land of cactus and lizards, or who have traveled in this arid region have had interesting experiences — or have had first hand knowledge of the experiences of others.

Desert Magazine wants some of these stories—to pass along for the entertainment and enlightenment of its readers. To obtain these personal adventures cash prizes will be awarded in a contest to close on November 1.

For the best story of from 1200 to 1500 words, an award of \$25.00 will be made. To each other contestant who submits an acceptable story the award will be \$15.

The manuscript should be a true experience, preferably of the writer—no yarns or tall tales or hearsay stories will qualify. The experience may involve danger while lost on the desert, an adventure while living or traveling in the desert wilderness, or the Indian country. It may be the meeting of an unusual character, revealing a phase of human nature, or a distinct way of life.

The contest is open to amateur and professional writers alike, but those who plan to submit manuscripts should carefully observe the following rules:

All manuscripts must be typewritten, on one side of the page only.

Entries should be addressed to Editor, *Desert Magazine*, Palm Desert, California, and must reach this office by November 1, 1951, to qualify for the awards.

If good sharp 5x7 or larger pictures are available, an extra \$3.00 will be paid for each photograph accepted. Pictures are not essential, however.

Writers must be prepared to supply confirmation as to the authenticity of their stories. Only true experiences are wanted.

All stories must be essentially of the desert, and the scene is limited to Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and the desert area of California.

True names of those involved must be given, although with the knowledge of the judges, fictitious names may be substituted in special cases where there is reflection on personal character.

If the story has appeared previously in print, this fact and the time and name of the medium in which it appeared should be given.

All readers of *Desert Magazine* are invited to submit manuscripts.

Judging will be done by the staff of *Desert Magazine*, and the decision of the judges will be final. Unaccepted manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by return postage.

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and jerky. The only item in their medicine case was a small bottle of iodine. They found that water could be located by following stock trails. Their longest single trek took two years when they went from Death Valley to the Mazatal mountains in Arizona. The Prices came to live at Idyllwild several years ago where Mr. Price is now fire chief.—*Hemet News*.

Burro Falls 700 Feet, Lives . . .

INYO—A pack burro, belonging to Richie Conway of Leevining, slipped on the shale rock and fell 700 feet down a slide on the trail to Mt. Hood. The animal was uninjured. Conway said that he had been using the same trail for 25 years and it is the first time a burro has lost its footing. — *Inyo Register*.

Lost Water Holes Sought . . .

BLYTHE — C. C. Tabor of the Blythe irrigation district sends out an S.O.S. for information regarding water holes or springs in this area which were filled in by the army on maneuvers during World War II. The Chamber of Commerce intends to ask military authorities to restore these valuable sources of water to their original usefulness. Those with this information should give the name of the water hole and its location as nearly as possible to Mr. Tabor. — *Palo Verde Valley Times*.

New Editor for "Record" . . .

BANNING — After 25 years as owner-publisher of the *Banning Record*, Carl Barkow has sold the Banning Publishing Company to Ward J. Risvold, former publisher of the *Clinton Tribune-Gazette*, Clintonville, Wisconsin. Risvold took over the operation of the Banning paper September 1. He is the third publisher of the *Record* in 43 years.—*Banning Record*.

Indians Object to New Road . . .

COACHELLA — Widening of Indian Avenue in Palm Springs hit a snag when the Agua Caliente Mission Indians filed a suit in Los Angeles to prevent condemnation of property along the western edge of their reservation, which is the east side of Indian Avenue. Part of the 50-foot right-of-way has already been acquired and paid for.—*Desert Barnacle*.

"Wetbacks" to Leave State . . .

INDIO — According to recent announcement by James G. Bryant, state director of employment, the practice of California farmers in employing illegal Mexican "wetbacks" will soon be abolished. Under the department's new plan to furnish the farmers with legal Mexican nationals for agricul-

tural work, any attempt on the part of the farmers to continue to employ "wetbacks," while waiting for legal nationals or using both "wets" and nationals, will forfeit the farmer's right to contract for the legal Mexican workers.—*Indio News*.

Date Prices Are Stabilized . . .

INDIO—Historical price-setting action was taken recently by the California Date Mutual. Growers are guaranteed 11 cents a pound for standard quality dates and 13 cents a pound for choice and higher grade dates. Ted Buck, Mutual president, stated that these minimum prices for 1951 consider cost of production, carryover, current consumer purchasing power, prospective crop, foreign competition and recent marketing conditions. Retail prices are expected to remain the same.—*Indio News*.

Excavator Digs Up Past . . .

BISHOP — Wendell Reynolds of Bishop, while excavating gravel in the Owens River bed, recently unearthed a fossil which Douglas Robinson, veteran Inyo-Mono historian and student of fossils has pronounced to be part of an elephant tusk. This elephant roamed the Inyo-Mono country 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, according to Robinson.—*Inyo Register*.

NEVADA

Las Vegas Is Housecleaning . . .

LAS VEGAS — Police Chief Roy Parrish and other North Las Vegas officials are ready to go in and raze the recently condemned shanty town which sprang up in the North Las Vegas

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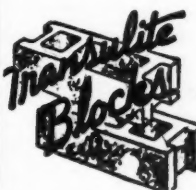
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area. A few of the shanty dwellers, upon receiving the five day notice to move out, were most indignant. Said one woman, "We've been living here for years. You can't take away our home." But city spokesmen said, "Oh, but we can, when building and health codes are violated." Roland Wiley, present owner of the property, is contemplating a housing development under FHA codes, and he said, "Federal housing authorities frown on tumble-down shacks on its project sites."—*Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

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Famed White Coyote Is Dead . . .

TONOPAH — The famed white coyote of Wheelbarrow Peak, Nevada, is dead. In the current issue of *Saga Magazine*, George F. Worts, a gold prospector of Emigrant Valley, tells how he and his friend, Jeff Yancey, killed the clever beast with a pick-up truck. According to Worts, the white coyote was a legendary character of lonely Emigrant Valley. He was the slyest coyote that ever snapped his jaws on a jack rabbit's throat, separated a calf from its mother, stole a lamb, or lured a domestic cat or dog to its death. Too smart to let himself be lined up in the sights of a rifle, too wily to be caught in a trap, yet he died of acute dilation of the heart when chased over the Groom lake flatlands by a pick-up truck.—*Tonopah Times-Bonanza*.

Town Finally Gives Up Ghost . . .

PIOCHE — Delamar, former metropolis of southern Nevada is a fading memory. Most present day Nevadans do not recognize the name of the ghost town. Delamar, where fatal mine dust killed scores of young miners, produced \$25,000,000 in gold during its first 16 years. What is left of the camp is located in central Lincoln county, about 125 miles north of Las Vegas and 50 miles south of Pioche. Gold was first discovered in the area, then known as the Monkey Wrench District, in 1892. The little tent and shack city that grew up got its name from Capt. J. R. Delamar, who was identified with many mining enterprises in the West. In the late 90's Delamar's population was 1000 persons. In 1940 Mrs. Agnes Horn, an elderly lady, was the lone occupant. When she died, but a few years ago, her house, the last in town, was torn down. Old stone walls, a crumbling mill and a cemetery are all that remain of Delamar now.—*Pioche Record*.

They Rode the Rapids . . .

BOULDER CITY—Two river expeditions, including 14 passengers and seven boatmen, successfully ran the rapids of the Grand Canyon during July this year. Frank Wright and Jim Riggs of Mexican Hat, Utah, and two other boatmen in four cataract boats brought a party of nine through the 243 rapids between Lee's Ferry and Lake Mead, Harry Aleson with two other boatmen and five passengers made the trip in neoprene life rafts. The two parties reached Boulder City within a few hours of each other. Emma Schray of Fresno, aged 66, is believed to have been the oldest woman to make the trip. She was with the Wright-Riggs expedition. — *Las Vegas Review Journal*.

Halogeton Bill May Pass . . .

FALLON—Favorable action in the senate is expected for Senator Malone's bill providing for the initiation of a program to eradicate and control the noxious weed Halogeton which has spread over several southwestern states. The bill provides for the inclusion of trust or restricted Indian lands and co-operation with private land owners in the areas to be controlled. — *Reese River Reveille*.

Nevada Museum Attracts Visitors . . .

CARSON CITY—The Nevada state museum which got its start in 1938 when school children sold buttons at ten cents each for initial funds, is attracting thousands of visitors to the old mint building in Carson City. In 1948 Judge Guild contributed a quarter of a million in cash and later Major Max Fleischmann gave a large amount which made possible a WPA program. A \$100,000 trust fund was set up to maintain various projects. Other substantial contributions and cooperation of many organizations have made this museum, with its complete underground mine, an outstanding attraction in Nevada.—*Fallon Standard*.

BOULDER CITY—Two men and a woman are making a leisurely rapids shooting jaunt through Grand Canyon in rubber boats, according to word received by the office of river control in Boulder City from the national park service station at Bright Angel.

Answers to True or False

Questions are on page 18

- 1—False. The Chuckawalla is harmless.
- 2—True.
- 3—False. Ubehebe has not been active within the memory of any living person.
- 4—True. 5—True. 6—True.
- 7—False. Calcite is much softer than quartz.
- 8—False. The women do the weaving.
- 9—True. 10—True.
- 11—False. Hopi Katchinas generally are whittled from cottonwood.
- 12—False. Great Falls is in the Little Colorado River.
- 13—False. Ocotillo belongs to the species Fouquieria.
- 14—True.
- 15—False. Visitors are prohibited from taking any specimens of petrified wood from the Monument.
- 16—False. The Giant Ground Sloth was a prehistoric beast.
- 17—True.
- 18—False. Lee's Ferry service was discontinued many years ago.
- 19—False. The date palms of the Southwest originally were imported from Africa and Asia.
- 20—True.

NEW MEXICO Pecan Festival Is Scheduled . . .

LAS CRUCES—Cock fights, quarter-horse races, square and folk dances, and other colorful activities will be incorporated in the first annual Mesilla Valley Pecan Festival on October 20. Highlight of the festival will be the crowning of the Mesilla Valley Pecan Queen who will reign over the initial harvesting of pecans in this lush, irrigated valley. The celebration will be patterned after a typical Spanish fiesta. The gaily-colored costumes long identified with these affairs will be worn by participants in the various events. Site for the festival will be Stahmann Farms, home of famed Del Cerro pecans and the world's largest pecan grove.

Rainmakers Are Happy . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—Howard Major, president of the San Ysidro Range Improvement Co., reports that most members of the organization are optimistic over early results of its rainmaking contract. The non-profit group of 200 farmers in a 40,000 square mile area covering the northwest corner of the state, has a 5½-month-old contract with Water Resources Development Corporation of Denver. Although June and July were well below normal in precipitation, May received 150 to 200 per cent more than usual. The inability to produce more rain in June and July was explained by the absence of enough clouds to seed. — *Gallup Independent*.

Pinon Incense . . .

Bring the delightful fragrance of the Pinon Forest into your home or office. The burner is a miniature model of the outdoor baking ovens used by prehistoric Indians, and still in use in New Mexico pueblos. When the little cones of genuine pinon pine are burned in this tiny oven the aroma is a breath of the outdoor Southwest.

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Indian Art Is Better . . .

GALLUP—R. Vernon Hunter, who while heading the state art program some years ago, set up the Gallup art center and who is now director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, said of this year's Ceremonial, "I observe improvements in costumes and color." In commenting on the paintings by Indian artists, his opinion was that their color sense has much improved; the artists no longer use the garish poster colors of former years. Colors in Navajo rugs also appeared to have been softened in tone, making them more suited to modern home use.— *Gallup Independent*.

Indian Winter May Be Hard . . .

GALLUP — At the Navajo tribal council in August, Allan G. Harper, area director of the Nava-Hopi reservations, called the four-county area—San Juan, McKinley, Rio Arriba and Sandoval counties — New Mexico a "no-man's land, where neither state nor federal governments will accept responsibility for the Indians' welfare." Harper said that there is a hard winter ahead for Indians in this section and that they will have to ship their stock for the winter, or sell it. If the stock is liquidated, Harper predicted a sharp rise in the number of Navajos on state relief.— *Gallup Independent*.

GALLUP — Ramon Cobo, 70, a shepherd who had been reported missing, was located calmly sitting under a tree with his faithful sheep dog, after an all night search in the Hay Lake-Ashurst Lake-Lake Mary area. The search party of 20 volunteers, led by deputies K. M. Quinn and Jack Johnson found Cobo, who had lost his bearings and also his sheep, none the worse for his experience. — *Coconino Sun*.

Attention, Rattlesnakes! . . .

TAOS—From the recent anniversary edition of *El Crepusculo*, comes the following warning to rattlesnakes: "Be wary of all tourists! They do not see where they are going; therefore, you can never tell when they will step on you. The tourist does not whistle or sing or give any warning; he just steps on your tail. Also, identification by the tourist is poor; his reaction, if you warn him by buzzing your tail, is to hit you on the head, throw stones and otherwise make things disagreeable. But ask him afterward what kind of snake he tried to kill, and he will say he does not know. Therefore, all rattlesnakes should club together, get some distinctive identification marks and by all means, leave all tourists alone."— *El Crepusculo*.

Bill Will Aid Drouthlands . . .

WASHINGTON — Senator Dennis Chavez has won Committee approval of his proposal that \$270,000 in unused farm housing funds be used for exploratory water well drilling in New Mexico and elsewhere to assist stockmen whose credit has been exhausted by prolonged drouth. Under present law, water facility loans may be made, but must be repaid and are conditioned upon the ability to repay. — *Eddy County News*.

Indians Get Better Highways . . .

GALLUP—First paving in the interior of the Navajo and Hopi country is now being done between Oraibi and Second Mesa. Other paved roads on

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the Navajo reservation are portions of U. S. Highway 666 on the east side and U. S. Highway 89 on the west side. About 10 miles of reservation paved road will be added. The new paving starts at Window Rock and is to continue west through Ganado and the Hopi villages to Tuba City. — *Gallup Independent*.

UTAH

Marker to Be Restored . . .

VERNAL—The marker indicating the intersection of the imaginary but highly important Uintah Base Line and Meridian which describes a large part of Uintah Basin lands, will be restored opposite the Ute Indians' Sun Dance ceremonial grounds south of White-rocks, according to Arthur Brown, regional engineer for the Bureau of Land Management. Every parcel of land in the Roosevelt and Duchesne areas is described in terms of the special lines established in 1875 when the land was thrown open to early Mormon settlers for homestead entry.—*Vernal Express*.

Ute Bill Awaits Truman Okay . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—A bill sponsored by Rep. Granger of Utah, would allow the Indians of the Ouray Uintah reservation to spend part of a \$31,-460,216 judgment the Utes won against the government last year—the biggest court of claims award of its kind in

history. Officials call the program unique because it is the first to be conceived, planned and carried out by Indians themselves. Granger's bill would authorize \$1000 payments to each of the Indians in the Uncompaghere, Uintah and White river tribes, set up a million dollar loan fund, and put up money for education, land buying and building purposes. The \$31 million judgment was to pay the Utes for 11,720,-000 acres of rich Colorado land taken by the government many years ago.—*Gallup Independent*.

Michigan Students Tour Utah . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—During the month of August, twelve mining engineering students from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Houghton, Michigan, made extensive field trips to Utah's mining areas, under the direction of Professor J. Murray Riddell and Professor William Bowlus, staff members of the college. Among the places visited were: Kennecott Copper corporation, the Garfield smelter of American Smelting and Refining company, the Salt Lake City plant of Eimco corporation and Horse Canyon mine at Price. — *Salt Lake Tribune*.

DELTA — The State Agricultural Commission has issued stiff regulations for the protection of humans, animals and bees against indiscriminate use of highly poisonous insecticides. At present the regulations apply only to Millard County, though according to commission member Tracy R. Welling, they will later be extended to other sections of the state. A major portion of the restriction concerns the

control of parathion, a deadly poison perfected by the Germans as a nerve gas, during the last war. Where there is danger of drifting, air dusting may not be used near residential areas.—*Millard County Chronicle*.

MONTICELLO—Julius A. Pomrenke has been appointed assistant range manager for the Bureau of Land Management. Pomrenke was transferred from Canyon City, Colorado where he worked on reconnaissance range surveys.—*San Juan Record*.

Forest Has Birthday . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Wasatch National Forest, which sprawls over 1,019,256 acres in Utah and Wyoming, is 45 years old. The forest, when created by federal legislation August 16, 1906, contained 966,721 acres on four ranges — Sheepprock, Stanbury, Wasatch and Uintah.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

SALT LAKE CITY—Annual predatory report from the U. S. fish and Wildlife service has revealed the highest kill of predatory animals since the 1947-48 season. Trappers and hunters of the federal service killed 1865 coyotes, 971 bobcats and 77 mountain lions.—*Goldfield News*.

CEDAR CITY—Jonreed Lauritzen of Tumuru, Arizona, has sold the British rights to his book, "The Rose and the Flame." The book, first published in April by Doubleday, will now be published by the British firm of Blackett and Hurst. — *Iron County Record*.

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An Invitation to Desert Readers . . .

Beginning Monday, October 15, the Desert Magazine Pueblo at Palm Desert will remain open through the winter season from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week—and this is an invitation to all Desert readers and their friends to visit the Gallery of Fine Arts which again this season will be under the direction of Harriett Day.

Visitors will have an opportunity to see the many oil and water color paintings in the art gallery, and may browse through the book and crafts shop—and inspect the plant where Desert Magazine and the Lapidary Journal are printed—if they care to do so.

Exhibits in the art gallery represent the work of a majority of the best painters in the Southwest. The bookstore includes practically all the Southwestern titles now in print.

Located in front of the Pueblo is Desert's Trail Shrine, where visitors may deposit a rock on the Shrine, as did prehistoric Indians of the desert country, to assure a safe and successful journey. A register is located at the Shrine where those who come may leave their names in a book which includes visitors from all over the world.

Gems and Minerals

JADEITE AND NEPHRITE REPORTS ARE ISSUED

Olaf P. Jenkins, chief of the California Division of Mines has announced the publication of three special reports covering Jadeite and Nephrite deposits in California.

Special Report 10-A covers "Nephrite Jade and Associated Rocks" in the Cape of San Martin region, Monterey county. Written by Richard A. Crippen, Jr., it includes a map and illustrations of the deposit.

Special Report 10-B describes "Nephrite in Marin County, California." It was written by Charles W. Chesterman of the staff of the Division of Mines. His report comprises the field and mineralogical study of a jade occurrence at Massa Hill in Marin County. The jade at Massa Hill is found in veins and lenses in place in serpentine; it varies in color from olive green to dark bluish green, and some specimens cut from it are of striking color and beauty.

The geology and mineralogy of the nephrite deposits were studied by the author, who utilizes the data obtained in his study to draw conclusions concerning the origin of the nephrite. Special Report 10-B, illustrated by 16 figures—line drawings, maps of the deposit and photographs—consists of 11 pages bound in heavy green paper.

Special Report 10-C is the third in the series of reports on jade issued by the Division of Mines. San Benito County became the focus of attention for many persons interested in jade when the first discovery of jadeite in California was announced. The California deposits are the first occurrences of jadeite in place reported in the western hemisphere.

Eight large exposures of jadeite are described in the report and plotted on the accompanying map. Although the jadeite resembles nearby serpentine in color, the authors believe that the greater "toughness and density of jadeite should be adequate clues to the keen prospector." Six figures—maps, line drawings, and photographs, illustrate the 8-page report.

Each of the above reports is available at 25c from the California Division of Mines, Ferry Building, San Francisco. California residents should add three percent sales tax.

ROCK EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR DEATH VALLEY PROGRAM

Plans have been completed by the directors of the Death Valley 49ers to hold a mineralogical exhibit in Death Valley in connection with the 3rd annual encampment program scheduled for December 1 and 2.

William R. Harriman, chairman of this feature of the encampment program, is to be assisted by the following committeemen: James Nossor of the Western Mining Council, D. R. Crawford of the N.O.T.S. Rockhounds and Don MacLachlan, editor of *Mineral Notes and News*.

It is planned to arrange a two-day exhibit at the airport near Furnace Creek ranch, and to award ribbons for winners of the various events which will be announced later.

ROCKHOUND FAIR TO BE HELD AT COMPTON IN SEPTEMBER

Southern California's first Rockhound Fair, sponsored by the Compton Gem and Mineral Club, will be held September 29-30 at the VFW hall in Compton. Among the exhibits at the fair will be the 2,097.50 carat "Star of Queensland," said to be the largest black star sapphire in the world. Contributors to the exhibits of outstanding gem and mineral collections will include Mrs. Jesse Hardiman, president of the Long Beach Gem and Mineral Club, displaying her jade collection; Leland Quick, editor of the *Lapidary Journal*, showing his half-pound Australian fire opal, one of the largest of its kind; and James Underwood of the Los Angeles Gem Society with his crystal display.

A BOOK FOR YOUNG AND OLD ROCKHOUNDS

While Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton intended *Rocks and Their Stories* for juvenile readers, they have written a concise little volume packed with simply stated essential information equally interesting to adults who have never had time to study rock formations and who have thereby missed many thrilling experiences.

Fifty pages of fine photographs adequately illustrate the book, giving quick and easy reference to plaguing questions of the amateur rock collector.

Without confusing technical terms, the Fentons briefly explain the difference between rocks, stones and minerals, tell how they were formed, how the earth's history may be read in these formations, and lastly how the novice collector may organize his specimens and follow through to a systematized display which will grow in size and interest through the years.

Published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York. 112 pp. \$2.50.

San Diego Lapidary society estimates that the profit made on their booth at the county fair was about \$400.



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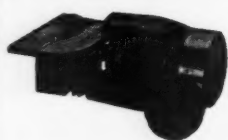
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AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

On August 18, the Shadow Mountain Mineralogists society joined the Orange County Lapidary rockhounds on a field trip into the Irvine ranch country. There were several dozen cars on the excursion. Petrified wood was found near Corona Del Mar. In the evening the party gathered at Doheny State Park where a picnic supper was served by the light of the full moon. John Hilton and Arlie Toulouse entertained with their string instruments, Barney Barnes danced and community singing was led by Mr. and Mrs. George Merrill Roy.

The Oklahoma University geology camp opened again this season on their Beaver Creek site near Florence, Colorado with a registration of 180 students for the three summer sessions. All geology majors in Oklahoma University are required to take this course as field work. Dr. Carl A. Moore, professor of geology, is director of the camp.

At the convention of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies, A. L. Flagg, of Phoenix, was elected to name a committee of four to work with him on plans to incorporate the federation. Committeemen are: Charles C. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City; Louis K. Heister, Albuquerque; Chester Howard, Denver; and F. C. Kessler, Canon City, Colorado. When the articles of incorporation are completed, they will be submitted to several societies for approval.

Compton Gem and Mineral Club announces the following field program: October 20-21, Palo Verde Mountains, Riverside County—fortification agate, sagenite, quartz crystals, chalcedony roses, iridescent chalcedony (fire agate) nodules and geodes, petrified wood; November 16-18, Black Canyon, Mojave Desert—pink and honey opal; December 15-16, Pleistocene Lake, Mojave Desert—agates, jasper, fig and palm wood, chalcedony and other unusual materials.

Newly elected officers of the Pasadena Lapidary society are: John H. Whatley, president; Robert G. James, vice-president; Lillian Lombard, secretary; Victory Armstrong, treasurer; Mrs. Robert G. James, hospitality chairman; Clarence Chittenden, program chairman; Dr. Frederic W. Burcky, by-laws; Jessie Chittenden, field trips; Oress Walker, mineral sales and display; Mahlon Frank, historian; Romeo Berube, faceteer; and Mrs. John H. Whatley, publicity.

Sam Gordon, former curator of the Philadelphia Museum, was scheduled to speak on "Mineral Collecting in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chili" at the August meeting of the Santa Fe Gem and Mineral Club. A field trip to Upper Rio Puerco was planned for August 12.

The Minnesota Mineral Club reports the following story: A woman, living near Knife River on the North Shore of the lake, found half a medium sized red-banded, geode agate center. The lake in the vicinity is shallow and often the lady walks into the water searching for agates. Four years after finding the first half of the geode, she picked up the other half—one mile down the beach and fifty feet from shore. The two halves fit perfectly.

SUGGESTIONS AGATE

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SUGGESTS FACETING OF AGATE AND OBSIDIAN

In his talk to the Hollywood Lapidary Society at the July meeting, A. B. Meiklejohn said that he did not particularly like the use of the term "gem stones." Strictly speaking, the lapidary works with minerals and not stones. He prefers the term "gem material." Meiklejohn outlined the various mineral divisions in which the amateur may specialize. These are (1) the collecting of minerals, with special reference to (a) crystals or (b) the Dana system, and (2) lapidary, covering (a) getting into the interior of opaque material, (b) faceting, (c) cameo cutting and (d) polished fluorescents. With reference to faceting, Meiklejohn suggested the faceting of such materials as obsidian, agate or tiger eye. Lapidary and minerals both have a place where gemology is concerned. Contrary to general belief, the lapidary is not a "crystal destroyer" who has no respect for valuable specimens. Rather, the lapidary produces beautiful gems from crystal fragments of no value to the collector. In evidence of this, he displayed an assortment of faceting materials which would yield fine gems but would have no interest for the mineral collector. He pointed out that some minerals serve a dual purpose, i.e., beryllium, chrysoberyl, phenacite and corundum are used in commercial processes and provide us with gems as well.

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem society resumed its regular meetings September 12 after a two month summer recess. New officers include Carl Becker, president; Captain Harvey A. Reed, vice-president and program chairman; Alice Everett, secretary; and Hugh S. Baird, treasurer. Wilson E. Thompson, out-going president, is now a federation director.

Victor Arciniega was scheduled to speak to the Hollywood Lapidary Society in August. Mr. Arciniega is very well known in the mining engineering field and many rock collectors have attended his classes at Manual Arts School, where he teaches five nights a week. For those interested, the classes are: Monday — Crystallography, Mineralogy, Gemology; Tuesday — General Chemistry and/or Rocks; Wednesday — Geology, Petrology, Rocks; Thursday — Advanced Mineralogy, Economic Geology; Friday — Mining Law, Lode Mining, Placer Mining, General Mining.

Members of the newly formed Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral society at Palm Desert, California, have become volunteer field workers, under the direction of trained archeologists, in making a cultural survey of the Coachella Valley. This survey will include mapping trade and emigration trails; locating camp and village sites; and discovering and photographing inscriptions and petroglyphs for museum study.

At the July meeting of the Hollywood Lapidary society, president W. A. Stephenson announced the following appointments: recording secretary, Suzanne Ravise; corresponding secretary, Venus Patterson; historian, Ruth Lie Van; standing committees: Jack Stiles, program; Gene Wilhelmy, membership; Eric Stone, constitution and by-laws; Charles Patterson, field trips; Louise Robinson, hospitality; Frances Virgin, lapidary sales; Della Holbrook, lapidary display; Margaret Harris, editor; Evinita New, librarian; Walt Shirey, show; Deall Holbrook, Christmas dinner.

Among those who displayed collections at the Hollywood Lapidary Society's July meeting were: W. A. Stephenson: a faceted amethyst and opal; cabochons of oolite, jet, pisolite, labradorite, peristerite, sunstone, marcasite and howlite; also polished specimens of thomsonite and chlorastrolite. Walt Shirey: 26 cabochons of scenic and moss agate from Montana, 15 cabochons and the rocks from which they were cut, gathered on the Palo Verde trip. C. R. Patterson: cabochons of Lake Mead agate and agate from Wiley's Well, three polished banded agate slabs from Wiley's Well. Russel E. Kephart: eight cabochons of jasper, agate and marine bone from Palo Verde Cove. Frances and Tom Birgin: specimen display of "What is it?" A. B. Meiklejohn, speaker of the day, presented a guest display of faceted stones and crystal specimens.

According to *Sooner Rockologist*, a publication of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem society, prehistoric stone implements occasionally found, were believed by the people of Europe and Asia to have been produced by thunderbolts. Healing and protective powers were attributed to these artifacts. The word "celt," which is used for various chisel-like ancient implements, is taken from Latin "celtis," meaning "chisel," as used in the Vulgate translation of Job 19:24, "celte sculpantur in silice"; but it has been thought that "graven with a chisel (celte) in the rock" is only a copyist's blunder for "graven surely (certe) in the rock." If so, then "celt" and "celties" are now incorrectly used.

The August meeting of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem society was to be held outdoors at Spring Lake. They planned a picnic supper for members and friends.

At the July meeting of the San Mateo County Gem and Mineral society, Leo E. Sievert, executive assistant to the president of Santa Fe Railway, gave an account of the largest known location of uranium in the world. The deposit is located on Santa Fe property at Haystack Mountain near Gallup, New Mexico. Mr. Sievert said that one kilogram. (2.2 lb.), could produce more power than all the generators of Hoover Dam in one day. The Bikini Mushroom, which was 5000 feet high and 2000 feet across was created by converting into energy a mass of matter the size of a thin dime. At the August meeting Professor Leslie E. Wilson of San Mateo Junior College showed slides of the San Andreas fault extending south to the Gulf of California.

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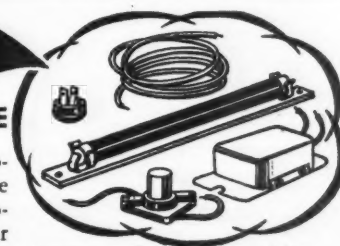
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The Mid-West Federation of Mineralogical Societies held its Annual Convention on July 2, 3 and 4 at Houghton, Michigan, in the heart of the copper country. There were 178 registrations notwithstanding the fact that the nearest society was located 360 miles distant. All meetings were held on the fine campus of the Michigan School of Mines and Technology. Members of the faculty contributed to the program and conducted field trips to many mining dumps and points of geological interest. The convention gave the members the opportunity to view the outstanding exhibit of minerals at the Seaman Mineralogical Museum which houses one of the finest collections of minerals to be found anywhere in the country.



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Santa Monica Gemological Society, at the August meeting, enjoyed instructive talks by two teachers of jewelry and metalwork, Alf Roland Dahl of Lincoln Junior high school, Santa Monica, and Mrs. Clarence Chittenden of Pasadena junior college. Both displayed colorful collections of their own handiwork. Simplicity of design and originality by the hobbyist were stressed. Nearly 100 pieces of sun-colored glassware were displayed by Mrs. Lois Aker. The entire collection was colored in less than three years at her desert home near Palm-dale. Field trip for August was in the Palo Verde quarries in search of selenite, barite, dolomite and quartz crystals.

The Pasadena Lapidary society announced that Mr. Mathieu would demonstrate the Mathieu Sphere Machine, showing how all sizes of spheres may be made. During the month of September, an exhibit of polished nodules, geodes, novelties, jewelry, cabochons, and faceted stones or wood was planned.

Dona Ana County Rockhound club of Las Cruces, New Mexico, invites members of other clubs to swap excess or unwanted specimen materials with them. Write what you have and what you would like in return and address your letter to: Mildred Sanders, Star Route, Box 43, Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

The annual convention of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical societies was held September 1-2-3 in Tacoma, Washington. The *Puget Sounder*, issued by Tacoma Agate club reports that displays of gems, jewelry, semi-precious stones from all over the world highlighted the extensive exhibits. A banquet for approximately 350 was held in the Roof Garden of the Masonic Temple. Numerous field trips were conducted during the days of the convention.

From *Desert Hobbyist*, Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral society's bulletin, comes the following: Kunzite is a pinkish-lavender variety of Spodumene and, when cut into gem stones, is most beautiful. It has been found at Pala and nearby mines in San Diego county and at Cahuilla Mountain in Riverside county. The only other known source is in Africa. Kunzite, being Spodumene, is in the monoclinic system and occurs in lepidolite, or is associated with it. It is composed of silica, alumina, lithia and usually a little sodium. The parent species — Spodumene — is occasionally found in huge crystals. One, from the Etta tin mine, was reported to be 47 feet long, 6 feet in diameter and weighed about 90 tons.

A. L. Benson, in his *Story of Geology*, states that a crystal is one of the strangest objects in nature. It is not alive, yet a learned writer, according to Benson, has said that no definition of life has been advanced which will not apply to a crystal with as much veracity as to any animal or plant. A crystal grows, but not like a man or a tree. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. If a crystal is placed in a liquid or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal, the process of accumulation immediately begins. Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed.

For a good field trip, Lee Harrison of San Diego Lapidary society suggests that you go to the Calico Mountain area, near Yermo, which is past Barstow on U. S. 466. Take the power line road and turn left on the first well-traveled road. Material to be found includes petrified palm wood and root of various shades of red and white; plume agate and sagenite of black and brown with a beautiful gold plume; and some good colored agate and brecciated agate. Don't forget to take plenty of water.

Jean and Ed Flutot, of Delvers Gem and Mineral society, Downey, California, report that they collected 75 pounds of Howlite from the old mine dump on Tick Canyon road, out of Whittier.

Near the site of the old home which Miss Thornton, state librarian, is remodeling at Sandtown, Georgia, is an ancient Indian mound from which many interesting artifacts have been recently dug, according to *Georgia Mineral Society News Letter*. Among these discoveries is a curious object which Miss Thornton likens to a large old-fashioned hoecake. It is composed of impure limestone, which resembles that of the Conasauga formation, 9 inches in diameter and 1½ inches thick in the center, thinning toward the edges.

Donald G. MacVicar, of Naugatuck, Conn., an Amherst College senior, has developed a rock-separating process which permits the study of life one billion years old, according to notation from *Shop Notes and News*, publication of San Diego Lapidary society. MacVicar has discovered that by slowly heating a specimen to 1000 degrees centigrade, its composition is altered by loss of carbon dioxide, removing the confining rock. Previously the acid method was used, which often dissolved both fossils and matrix in which they were held. MacVicar's method disclosed microscopic porifera (sponge) remains, described as "the oldest dated specimens to be identified as remains of living organisms."

The *Voice of Experience* from the El Paso Rockhounds says, "A frequent source of contamination of the laps are the water valve on the supply line and the switch on the motor. Wipe them clean between lap changes. When grinding down rocks for spheres and the heavier pieces, do not hold the stone in contact with the wheel all the time. Move the stone in and out and after some time the wheel will run as true, or more so, than when you started. Exercise great caution and do not let an almost finished sphere roll under the grinding wheel. Several fine wheels have been thus ruined and besides it is extremely dangerous. Small amounts of oil mist from sawing operations seriously affect the efficiency of dry sanding cloth. Place tight covers over the sanding drums when not in use and keep the reserve cloth in a tightly closed container."

Through the courtesy of Kremers Cattle company, northwest of Fort Collins, the Colorado Mineral society's July 15 field trip was most successful. Mr. Kremers personally led the party of 30, in 11 cars, through his 11,000 acre ranch and turned them loose on the beds of calcite crystals on a limestone ridge. Huge clusters of spikes ranging from small crystal points to some nearly 18 inches long were found with very little digging. This material is spectacular under a fluorescent lamp. Some of the group proceeded to nearby Owl Canyon quarry for specimens of alabaster, aragonite and greenish-gray satin spar.

Victor Arciniega, geologist and engineer, was a recent speaker at the Gem Cutter's Guild in Los Angeles. Arciniega demonstrated the uses of the polarscope. He pointed out that this optical instrument is very efficient in separating stones of similar color, such as the ruby and the garnet and may be used to identify some gem materials.

The Los Angeles Lapidary Society displayed some of its work at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona and plans to have an exhibit at the Rockhound Fair in Compton, September 29-30. At its August meeting, Victor Arciniega lectured on the origin of thundereggs, geodes and agates.

Committeemen announced at last meeting of the San Mateo County Gem and Mineral society were Marcia Mabie, senior educational chairman, and Berla Ellis, librarian. Dorothea Luhr will serve as historian in addition to her general duties as educational chairman. She requests members to save clippings from peninsula papers for the scrapbook.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

Of The Desert Magazine published monthly at Palm Desert, California, for October 1, 1951. State of California, County of Riverside—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Randall Henderson, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of the Desert Magazine and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Desert Press, Inc., Palm Desert, California; Editor, Randall Henderson, Palm Desert, California; Business manager, Bess Stacy, Palm Desert, California.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Desert Press, Inc., Palm Desert, California; Lena Clements, Cyria A. Henderson, Carl R. Henderson, Clifford W. Henderson, Randall Henderson, Martin Moran, Nina Paul Shumway and Bess Stacy, all of Palm Desert, California; Al Haworth, El Centro, California; Vera L. Henderson, Los Angeles, California; Phillip T. Henderson, Pasadena, California; Evonne Riddell, Los Angeles, California.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: Bank of America, Indio, California.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

RANDALL HENDERSON, Editor
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of August, 1951.

R. C. STURGEON
(My commission expires
May 24, 1952)

Since the summer months on the desert are not conducive to field trips, members of the Coachella Valley Mineral society at Indio, California, keep contact with each other through monthly picnics held on the shores of Salton Sea. They have a favored picnic spot a mile east of Desert Beach, and the most popular diversion is moonlight swimming.

Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral society reports that on July 3 a pocket of Kunzite which yielded 130 pounds of Kunzite and two pounds of beautiful Golden Beryl was discovered at the Ashley mine on the side of Palomar Mountain. George Ashley has made a series of color shots of the new pocket and will show them at the October meeting.

At the September meeting of Northern California Mineral society, Salem J. Rice, geologist of the California State Division of Mines spoke on quartz crystals in California. Cabochons were exhibited by George Dingmann and Hubert Maurer. The society plans a trip to Petaluma on October 7 to see Max Vonsen's collection of mineral specimens. George Dingmann made a successful jade-hunting trip to Wyoming; Dorothy Cole returned from Juneau, Alaska, with specimens of glacial rocks; and Kathryn and Bertha Sanders rockhunted in Mexico.

Mining engineer, Victor A. Arciniega, president of Pacific Mineral society of Los Angeles, stated the possibility that rockhounds may be of assistance in locating material which produces the invaluable isotopes, which are the hope of future power, defense, and of research in chemistry and medicine. Arciniega suggested clues in the pegmatites, and the red, yellow and black colorings. Scheelite, epidote and smoky quartz are the objective of the society's proposed field trip to the Kernville area.

The Mother Lode Mineral society held its annual Lapidary, Gem, Mineral and Crystal show September 22-23 at Ensen Park, Modesto.

John H. Whatley has been elected President of the Pasadena Lapidary society for the coming year. Other officers are: Vice-President, Robert G. James; Secretary, Lillian Lombard; Treasurer, Victor Armstrong; Hospitality Chairman, Mrs. Robert G. James; Program Chairman, Clarence Chittenden; By-laws, Dr. Frederic W. Burcky; Field Trips, Jessie Chittenden; Mineral Sales and Display, Oress Walker; Historian, Mahlon Frank; Faceteers, Romeo Ruben; and Publicity, Mrs. John H. Whatley.

Sam Gordon, former curator of the Philadelphia Museum, was scheduled to speak on "Mineral Collecting in the Atacama Desert in Northern Chili" at the August 21 meeting of the Santa Fe Gem & Mineral club. Scheduled for August 12, the same club planned a field trip to Upper Puerco, New Mexico, when they hoped to find petrified wood, opalized wood, palm root, jasper and perhaps petrified bone and Indian artifacts.

The August meeting of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem society was scheduled to be held August 2 at Spring Lake with an out-door picnic supper for members and friends.



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AMATEUR GEM CUTTER

By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

Perhaps at the risk of boring some of our readers we desire at this time to give the latest information on jade in California. We do this for two reasons—it is big news at this time and it is of great interest always to the amateur gem cutter, now that the Wyoming jade sources are practically depleted. The Wyoming material still available for sale has generally been priced out of the market.

In a conversation with Donal Hord (carver of *Thunder*, etc.) in mid-August we learned that upon a recent visit to Wyoming he was told by a recognized authority that there has not been a piece of good jade weighing more than two pounds found in the Lander field in the last two years. Jade has been found in place in Wyoming but it is reported to be of inferior quality to the good green material associated with the early discoveries in the thirties.

The discovery of new jade sources almost monthly at widely separated spots in California therefore carries much interest for the lapidary. And it is interesting to note that all of the discoveries, of which we have knowledge, have been made by rockhounds . . . a prediction we made long ago, for the rockhound now knows what he is looking for.

For those who have a greater interest in jade than can be satisfied in this limited space we are happy to report that the Division of Mines of the State of California has issued three bulletins containing exhaustive information on the jade situation. The first report was issued in May and two are appearing in September. These reports are obtainable for 25c each and may be purchased by sending a remittance to the Division of Mines, Ferry Building, San Francisco. We predict that these reports will be so popular and the demand so great that they will be out of print before Santa Claus jogs through the jade areas again—so get yours now.

The report issued in May (submitted for publication in August 1950) was prepared by Richard A. Crippen, Jr. It is entitled *Nephrite Jade and Associated Rocks of the Cape San Martin Region, Monterey County, California*. The new reports to be issued in September are *Nephrite in Marin County, California*, by Charles W. Chesterman (prepared last February) and *Jadeite in San Benito County, California*, by H. S. Yoder and Mr. Chesterman (prepared last January). In ordering these reports it would be much simpler to send 75c for Special Reports 10A-B-C.

These reports do not cover the recent discoveries at Covelo, where nephrite and jadeite occur together in huge quantities and in place. We have examined and we own several pieces of this material (most of it given us by R. F. Henley of San Francisco and the owners of the mine) and all we can say at this time is that it is interesting. We have not worked any of it. Needless to say the finding of large jade deposits in place and the association of nephrite and jadeite together has caused great excitement in California and a lot of nonsense in national broadcasts by some of the sensational commentators.

The Division of Mines has examined this situation quite thoroughly and is not yet ready to say that jadeite exists in place in

the Covelo district. It does exist as associated boulders and perhaps in place. We possess a slab that is supposed to be jadeite on one side and nephrite on the other; the materials being separated by a band of serpentine. We say that of course with our tongue in our cheek and we hope it's true.

On August 20 Mr. Chesterman, who had recently returned from the new district, wrote to us and advised as follows—"to date the Division of Mines has not made any complete analyses of materials collected by Weise and Stockton from their property at Leech Lake Mountain. It is true that we have examined microscopically and chemically mineral grains from samples submitted by Weise and Stockton, but this does not in any way constitute analysis. We were able to identify nephrite as being present. Several years ago we identified jadeite from a boulder picked up along Williams Creek. We have not to date been able to identify the mineral jadeite in any of the samples submitted by Stockton or Weise. This does not mean that jadeite is not present, but merely that we have not been able to find it in the material we examined. We plan on making a very detailed laboratory investigation of the material we collect. This will include microscopic, chemical and physical tests and the results of this investigation will be published at some later date by the Division of Mines . . . I spent several days on the property with Mr. Stockton in company with Mr. Rice of the Division of Mines, and we found that the area affords an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in studying relationships between serpentine and sedimentary rocks and the mode of occurrence and emplacement of the nephrite veins in serpentine in sandstone."

Now there is not very much in that report to confirm the rumors of jade that are flying around the state thicker than gnats in a fruit orchard. An interesting and complete account of the Covelo jade discovery will be found in the August issue of the *Lapidary Journal*. This much seems practically certain . . . jadeite and nephrite do occur together in associated boulders in what appears to be the largest jade area in the world today.

In Mr. Crippen's report (referred to above as 10-A) he makes the interesting observation that only two jade artifacts have been reported in the United States. A chisel found in New Mexico evidently came from Old Mexico. A jade axe found in the State of Washington is presumed to have been brought from Alaska. We have in our possession a jade axe head given us by Alberto Maas which was found in the state of Sonora, Mexico—immediately south of our border. This was found with other artifacts and the location is the farthest north, in Mexico, of any location so far reported.

We have been trying to track down a rumor that jade has recently been found in Nevada but we have no information about it at this time.

In conclusion we offer the advice that the new state documents are all well diagrammed and illustrated and they should be a valuable addition to the library of any serious student of minerals and gems. They most certainly should be in the libraries of the earth science groups.

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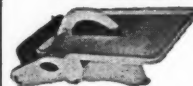
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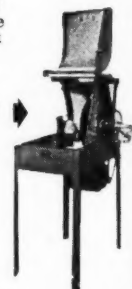
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BOOKS OF THE SOUTHWEST . . .

TRAIL-BLAZERS ON A MISSION THAT FAILED

They ran out of food and had to eat their horses, they were lost many times in the desert wilderness without a guide, they had to make their way through the tribal lands of Indians who were not always friendly and they were blocked constantly by precipitous terrain which remains almost inaccessible even today.

They never reached their goal—and yet the trek of Fathers Escalante and Dominguez and their eight companions in their quest for a communication route between Santa Fe and Monterey, California, in 1776 is today regarded as one of the courageous and important episodes in early American history.

The two padres left Santa Fe July 29. They traveled northwest, to avoid the lands of the hostile Apaches to the south. Father Escalante kept a day-by-day record of their journey, and it is this record which made it possible for Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, California's great historian, to bring to students of history today the detailed story of this momentous adventure on the Great American Desert.

Dr. Bolton's book, *Pageant in the Wilderness*, represents a lifetime of study and exploration. With his own translation of the Escalante diary, and an ancient map which he discovered in the archives in Mexico, the author traced the exact route of the 6-month trek in accurate detail, and has prepared a new map of the route with reference to present day place names.

The book is in two parts—the first being Dr. Bolton's story of the highlights of the journey, the second being a translation of the day-by-day record kept by Father Escalante.

It is a most revealing volume, since it gives both an intimate disclosure of the courage and faith which led the Franciscan trail-blazers nearly two centuries ago to face the obstacles of a wild and hostile region to bring salvation to its savage occupants, and it also reveals the nature of the Indians who occupied this region before the coming of the white civilization.

Most students of Southwestern history have heard of the historic "Crossing of the Fathers" in the canyon of the Colorado River. Here is told in Father Escalante's own words the detail of that crossing, and the explanation for the selection of so difficult a site to ford the river.

Pageant in the Wilderness is published as Utah State Historical Quarterly Volume XVIII of the Utah Historical Society, and much credit is due the Utah society for making possible the publication of this fine historical record.

Published 1951, 265 pp., with half-tones, two maps, bibliography and index. \$5.00.

ON THE RANGE WHEN BUFFALOES RAN WILD

The Old West is gone—but there are men still alive who knew it, and Ross Santee, cowboy, author and artist, is one of them. In *The Bubbling Spring*, he tells the story of Nathan Rogers, a boy who grew up hunting buffaloes, living among friendly Indians, fighting unfriendly ones, taking active part in cattle drives at an age when boys of today can only read of them or watch the movie-ized version of a way of life as remote as if it had been lived on another planet. Nathan learned to shoot and to throw a knife with deadly accuracy; he learned the ways of wild animals and the intricate details of cow punching and horse wrangling. He was only a boy when he saw his first trail herd, but from that moment the pattern of his life was set.

Small, fiery headed image of his adored Uncle Nate, after his mother's death, he followed the trails with him, staying in friendly Piegan villages, hunting buffalo, visiting the roaring frontier towns until the day when Uncle Nate was shot in the back by Pretty John, a gambler.

Young Rusty avenged his uncle's death with the knife which hours of practice throughout the years had made precision perfect. That was the way of the West.

Cowboys, Piegans, Apaches, horses; as Rusty roams through the years, cow-punching, fighting, growing, the reader learns to know them well. Riproaring humor, tragedy, the violent hatreds and undying loyalties of that rough, boisterous, courageous day—all fill the fast moving pages of *The Bubbling Spring*.

And underneath it all is the shy tenderness of the questing human spirit. Rusty finds the dream spot at the end of his wanderings at the bubbling spring. There he builds a home for himself and Johnnie Boy, a stray black cat that adopted him, and for Lobo, more wolf than dog. And there he

takes the only girl he had ever seen to complete the dream, "Indian," who understood just how a red headed cowboy felt about his bubbling spring.

Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Over 50 illustrations by the author. 300 pp. \$3.75.

HE SHARED ADVENTURE WITH THE MOUNTAIN MEN

Life in England was too dull for George Frederick Ruxton, and before he was out of his teens he was seeking adventure in the far corners of the earth. It is only natural then that he should come eventually to America where the wild west of the 1840's was being explored and trapped by that hard fighting, hard drinking clan of adventurers known as the Mountain Men.

Ruxton was an amazing person. He combined a passion for rugged adventure, the hardihood to survive it, and the literary ability to portray it. He made long treks into the wilderness as a companion to such men as Old Bill Williams, Black Harris, William Sublette and Joseph Walker—and wrote the story of his adventures for serial publication in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* in 1848.

Later his stories were published in both England and America in many book editions, the last being in 1915.

More recently LeRoy R. Hafen, professor of history at the University of Denver recognized in these stories an important contribution to the folklore of early America, and has brought out a new volume *Life in the Far West*.

This book is adventure extraordinary—the true chronicle of the rugged Mountain Men whose unflinching courage and total disregard for personal safety opened the West to the settlers who were to make this region habitable.

Ruxton had a fine memory and in telling the story of harrowing experiences with the Indians he often reverted to the vernacular of Old Bill Williams and his other companions on the trail. It is a gripping tale of life and adventure in the Southwest—told by a brilliant writer.

Black and white water color illustrations of episodes in the book were done by Alfred Jacob Miller.

Published by University of Oklahoma Press, 252 pp. Illus. Index. \$3.75.

Books mentioned on this page are available from Desert Crafts Shop, Palm Desert, California.



By RANDALL HENDERSON

When the wind is from the west, wisps of smog are blown through the pass in the mountain range which separates our desert from the Southern California coastal area. Not much of it, but enough to make us thankful our homes are on this side of the mountains.

Smog is a curse our cities have brought on themselves. They wanted more industries—more payrolls. And now they are wondering if the belching smokestacks that go with more payrolls are worth the price.

Isn't it possible that chambers of commerce and other civic groups which have been putting all their emphasis on bigger factories and more population have been worshipping false gods?

I hope we can keep our little desert community of Palm Desert free of factory fumes. Both for our own health and comfort—and as a place where the metropolitan dwellers on the other side of the mountains can come for their weekends and an opportunity to get their lungs full of pure air.

• • •

Peter Paul Martinek of Glendale, California, has acquired a little plot of desert ground and a cabin in Borrego Valley—and enough income to retire to his desert retreat and spend the next five years doing what he wants most to do. In his case it is prospecting. He is going to prospect for tungsten, uranium and manganese—and keep his eyes open for one of those lost mines John Mitchell has been writing about for *Desert Magazine*.

Peter wrote me a letter the other day and asked a question which caused me to pause in the middle of the day's work and ponder. "If you were free to devote your entire time for the next five years to a search for lost mines, which in your opinion has the likeliest basis of fact, and for which would you search?" he asked.

Perhaps my answer will be rather disillusioning to Peter Martinek—but after all, I merely am expressing an opinion which is entitled to no more weight than that of any other dweller in the desert country.

I am acquainted with most of the lost mine legends of the Southwest—the Pegleg, the Lost Dutchman, Breyfogle, Lost Arch, Lost Dutch Oven, etc. None of them in my opinion has sufficient basis of fact to justify a five year search.

And yet I hope Peter Paul will go ahead with his program as planned. I rather envy him those five years with nothing to do but roam the desert. I may be wrong about the lost mines. I hope I am. I hope that on the last day of the fifth year he makes his strike—and a rich one at that.

In the meantime I would suggest that he equip his little cabin with a good Coleman lamp for reading purposes—and that he put on his book shelf a few selected titles: Donald Culross Peattie's *The Road of a Naturalist*,

Edmund C. Jaeger's *My Desert Neighbors*, Red Manning's *What Kinda Cactus Izzat?* John Muir's *Steep Trails*, Frederick Brewster Loomis' *Field Book of Common Rocks and Minerals*, Margaret Armstrong's *Field Book of Western Wild Flowers* and *Desert Magazine's On Desert Trails with Everett Ruess*.

And as he treks over the desert and camps beside its waterholes, I would suggest that he get acquainted with the fascinating world that is all about him—and try to discover and understand the natural laws which keep it in balance.

Every prospector carries a microscope—to search for the minute particles of gold that may not be visible to the human eye. I would suggest that Peter Martinek also pause to turn his powerful lens on the tiny plants that grow unnoticed on the desert's floor and hillsides, and on the grains of sand under foot. He will discover a great new world of beauty which most people—even desert dwellers—never suspect.

Perhaps when he has lived on the desert awhile and the time has come when he knows the plants and wildlife around him as friends, he will be able to write, as did Everett Ruess: "Alone on the desert . . . the world has seemed more beautiful to me than ever before. I have loved the red rocks, the twisted trees, the red sand blowing in the wind, the slow sunny clouds crossing the sky, the shafts of moonlight on my bed at night. I have seemed to be at one with the world. I have rejoiced to set out, to be going somewhere, and I have felt a still sublimity, looking into the coals of my campfires at night, and seeing far beyond them. . . . I have really lived."

And then, at the end of his desert sojourn—on the last day of the fifth year, if Peter Martinek really finds his long-sought gold mine, perhaps it will not seem very important. For he will have found a greater value, in terms of human contentment, than can be bought with all the gold mines in the world.

• • •

I was walking along a street where the buildings were grimy with the accumulated soot of years, and the parkways and streets so cluttered with debris it would seem hazardous to drive a car along the narrow strip of paving in the center. It was in east Los Angeles—the industrial district.

Inside a battered sheet-iron building I could see row after row of heavy duty stamping machines—the tools of the metal worker. Through the air came the strains of beautiful concert music. One of the workers had installed on his bench a fine phonograph and had selected records which during many hours of the day would lift him out of the drab environment of his tincan alley.

I do not know the man—but I am sure I would like him. He brought beauty into a place where there was only ugliness before.

THE *Desert* MAGAZINE CLOSE-UPS

In all the desert country there probably is no more versatile citizen than Barry Goldwater, who wrote the story of the re-discovery of Hawkeye Natural Bridge for this issue of *Desert Magazine*. Barry is vice-mayor of Phoenix, having served on the city council there for 1½ years, and according to a recent article in *Satevepost*, he played a leading part in the election of Arizona's Republican Governor Pyle.

But politics merely is a part of the day's work for Barry Goldwater. He manages one of Arizona's biggest and best known department stores—Goldwater's. He is one of the owners of Rainbow Lodge and makes frequent trips to the Lodge in his airplane. One of his hobbies is photography, and although he regards himself merely as an amateur, his work ranks with that of the professionals. His exploring trips have yielded a fine library of motion pictures in color, and he has given motion picture lectures all over the state—gratis.

A civic leader with an interest in every forward movement in Arizona, he still finds time to write occasionally and because he knows the geography of his state so well, having covered it both on the ground and from the air, his feature stories—like the trek to Hawkeye Bridge—are always of exceptional interest. Barry was a pilot in the last war with the rank of Major.

• • •

Last month a big Miehle cylinder press was moved into *Desert Magazine's* pueblo at Palm Desert—and for the first time in the history of this 14-year-old publication this October issue was composed, printed and bound entirely in the printing plant owned by the publishers.

In the past the procedure has been to set the type and make up the page forms in *Desert's* printing plant, and then truck them to Los Angeles for presswork and binding.

But with the installation of the big Miehle, the trucking days are over—and all operations in the future will be completed in the home workshop.

The printing and binding of 25,500 copies each month is a big-shop operation, and the responsibility for this part of the production job will be in the hands of Paul Gilbert, who recently has joined *Desert's* staff as printing superintendent.

Next month's *Desert* goes to press on the 3rd or 4th of this month, and

is scheduled to be ready for the mailing room by the 16th. We try to get it into the hands of western subscribers by the 20th. It takes a little longer for eastern deliveries.

Generally there are a few "bugs" to be gotten out of a new piece of equipment as intricate as a printing press—and if *Desert* should be a day or two late this time you'll know the reason. If you get your copy on time you'll know that Paul Gilbert and his very efficient crew did a rather miraculous job of getting a complex mechanism of gears, cams, cylinders, rollers, tapes and ink fountains to operate as they should operate—on schedule.

• • •

Desert Magazine is published by a little corporation—composed mostly of country printers. Over 80 percent of the ownership is in the hands of employees, and all members of the organization have the opportunity to participate in the ownership after they


have proved to be competent and congenial associates.

The staff this season renews its invitation to readers who are passing this way, to visit the publishing plant—and if you are here between the 4th and 16th of the month you may watch the next month's issue as it goes through the press.

• • •

All visitors to *Desert's* Pueblo also have the privilege of depositing a rock on the Trail Shrine in front of the building—and placing their names in the register there. The Trail Shrine is a revival of the ancient Indian custom of placing a stone on a mound along the trail as the tribesman sets out on a long journey—to insure good luck and a successful mission. These old Shrines may be seen along many of the prehistoric Indian trails in the desert country. Many hundreds of rocks have been added to *Desert's* Trail Shrine since it was dedicated last April.

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WHAT ABOUT ACID ACTION?

THE CORROSIVE ACTION OF ACIDS ON METAL CAN CAUSE
UP TO 80% OF ENGINE WEAR. TRITON CONTAINS A
SPECIAL COMPOUND THAT RESISTS ACID FORMATION
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